60¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

SEPTEMBER 25th, 1980 ★ VOLUME 15, NUMBER 39

National Scene

★

HOLDING THE BOTTOM

★

Fall Flounder Fishing

★

SURF BLUES

★

Fish Talk: TRIVIA

★

Fall Blackfish

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	9:00	9:25	9:45	10:10	9:40	10:00	10:30	10:50	–	12:20	–	12:20	8:55	9:20	9/25
FRI.	9:50	10:15	10:35	10:55	10:30	10:55	11:15	11:50	12:50	1:10	12:45	1:10	9:45	10:10	9/26
SAT.	10:40	11:10	11:25	11:50	11:20	11:50	–	12:10	1:40	2:00	1:40	2:00	10:35	11:00	9/27
SUN.	11:35	–	–	12:20	–	12:20	12:40	1:05	2:40	2:55	2:35	2:55	11:30	11:55	9/28
MON.	12:05	12:30	12:45	1:15	12:50	1:20	1:40	2:05	3:40	3:55	3:30	3:55	–	12:25	9/29
TUE.	1:05	1:30	1:50	2:20	1:50	2:15	2:45	3:10	5:00	5:25	4:35	4:55	12:55	1:25	9/30
WED.	2:05	2:25	2:55	3:30	2:50	3:15	3:55	4:15	6:20	6:50	5:40	6:00	2:00	2:30	10/1
THUR.	3:05	3:30	4:05	4:35	3:50	4:15	5:05	5:25	7:30	7:55	6:45	7:10	3:00	3:30	10/2

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	+ 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

9/26	6:51	6:51
9/27	6:52	6:49
9/28	6:54	6:47
9/29	6:55	6:45
9/30	6:56	6:44
10/1	6:57	6:42
10/2	6:58	6:40

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
9/9	9/17	9/24	9/1

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	5:35	—	6:10	12:25
Fri.	6:35	12:55	7:10	1:25
Sat.	7:40	2:00	8:10	2:25
Sun.	8:40	3:00	9:10	3:30
Mon.	9:45	4:00	10:10	4:30
Tues.	10:45	5:00	11:10	5:30
Wed.	11:45	6:00	—	6:25
Thurs.	12:10	6:50	12:40	7:15

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About the Cover—

Bob Sparta (right) of S&G Tackle and his 850 lb. tuna taken last week at the "Mud Hole" in the N.Y. Bight, aboard Captain Ron Lepper's "Kim." Photo by Joseph Gerace.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **INLET BLACKFISH**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
Fred Golofaro, EDITOR
Rich Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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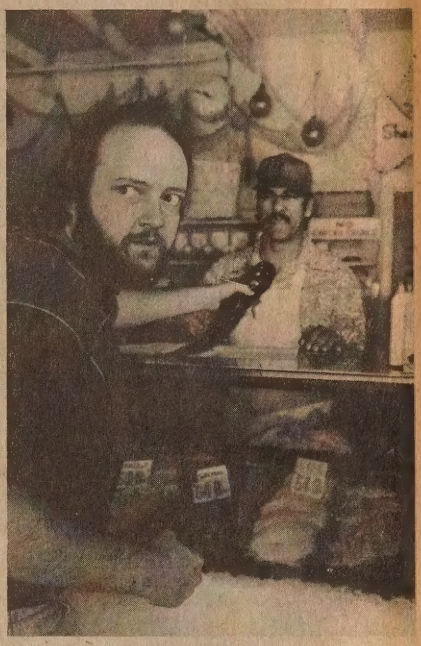
Joe, put a hook in it.



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Pass It On...

EMANON ROD & REEL CLUB

The July trip to Gloucester, Massachusetts was a tremendous success with 31 members and guests attending the two-day excursion. Everyone caught over a dozen fish with many in the thirty pound class. The overnight boat trip found everyone waking up 80 miles out at sea in over 250' of water. Net results were: cusk, sea catfish, cod and pollack with the pool being awarded to Roosevelt Brooks (President) for a hefty 39 lb. cod.

However, the highlight of the day was the cook who most generously gathered together four medium sized codfish and brewed the best fish chowder north of the Hamptons. The favorable weather, excellent captain/crew and the good times had by all, has prompted the fishing committee to make Gloucester an annual affair.

BOATING COURSES

Flotilla 13-4 of the U. S. Coast Guard is again offering a 10-lesson Basic Seamanship and Boating Course, beginning Wednesday, October 8, 8PM to 10PM at Lawrence Sr. High School, Room 243, Reilly Road, Cedarhurst, New York. Registration at class on October 8, or by phone: 516-295-2700, Ext. 227. Late registration also at first and second class—October 8 and 15.

This course is recommended by insurance companies and the Authorities. Lessons will explore seamanship, nomenclature, piloting, rules of the road, buoy systems, compass, charts, electronics, outboards, inboards, and sailboats. A certificate is awarded upon successful completion.

* * *

The Great South Bay Power Squadron will conduct a fall Basic Boating Class for the general public. The class will be in the Islip Jr. High School on September 30 at 8PM, in the cafeteria, with registration September 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Islip High School cafeteria.

This course is a must for the new boat owner and a great refresher for the old salt. More information may be obtained by calling Lt. Thomas Barone at 666-5713 after 6PM.

ATTENTION

Would Kenneth Preston please contact Linda at The Fisherman, 516-725-4200, ext. 16.

TRAINING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE THRU AFTMA

Through a new program announced by the AFTMA Sport Fishing Educational Foundation, colleges and universities interested in starting a sport fishing course are eligible to

receive training equipment.

Tackle is consigned to the college without charge and remains at the school as long as it is kept in good working order and is used for sport fishing instruction.

For complete details, contact Bob Bluth, AFTMA Sport Fishing Educational Foundation, 2625 Clearbrook Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

ATTENTION!!

Would ANTHONY PLINIO PLEASE contact Linda at The Fisherman, 516-725-4200, Ext. 16. Need information from you. Thanks.

LEGISLATORS TO AIR VIEWS ON IMPORTANT ISSUES

The Suffolk Alliance of Sportsmen, Inc. is hosting a legislative breakfast on Sunday, October 5, 1980, at the Holiday Inn, 1740 Expressway Drive South, Hauppauge, New York.

The purpose of the breakfast is to offer us sportsmen the opportunity to determine for ourselves where their State and Federal Legislators and candidates stand on the issues important to us: hunting, fishing, trapping, firearms control and conservation. The format of the program will be that of a closed forum. A list of five questions from the above topics will be prepared and given to the candidates for their response. Unfortunately, time will not permit individual questions from the audience during the program.

We would like to have as many people as possible attend this important meeting. Wives are invited and encouraged to attend. In order to impress upon these legislators our concerns, a capacity crowd is needed. It is important to show our legislators that we sportsmen are willing to dedicate ourselves to our sport. We can convince them with numbers, so it is vital that as many of you attend as possible.

The breakfast will begin promptly at 9AM. The cost will be $6 per person, and advance reservations are required.

After hearing the candidates speak on the issues, we will have a better insight as to what they will do for sportsmen once in office. As voters, this insight will help us make the right decisions in the voting booth come November. Your support is not only necessary, but vital to the success of this and future SASI functions. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Bernie Meyers, Committee Chairman, at 587-2288 between 9AM and 5PM, or at 888-8321 after 6PM. For reservation forms, drop a line to: Mr. Bernie Meyers, 309 N. Niagara Avenue, Lindenhurst, New York 11757.

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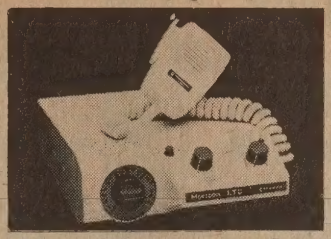

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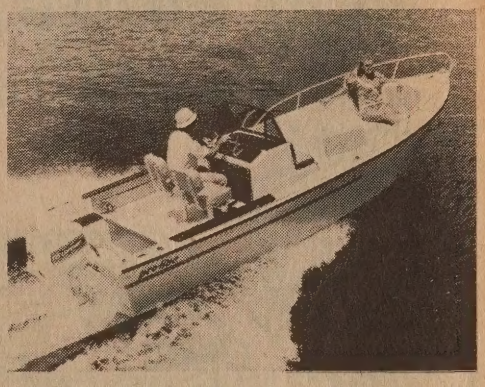

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LEHMAN DIESELS—THE RUGGED HEART OF THE "GROVERBUILT 26"

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1981 PENN REELS FULL COLOR CATALOG

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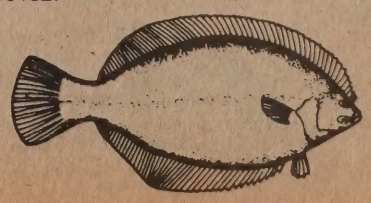

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

NEW COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS SHOW SOME IMPROVEMENT

According to the Sport Fishing Institute, there was a net gain of two recreational fishing seats in the latest round of Council appointments. However, this still leaves recreational representatives outnumbered by commercials at a ratio of 2.1 to 1. In the Mid-Atlantic Council, Alfred Hurlock, Jr. of Wilmington was appointed to replace marina operator Barbara Porter in the designated Delaware seat. The Virginia seat held by Dr. Hargis was given to an outstanding sportsman and conservationist, James F. McHugh, of Hampton, Virginia. Captain Dave Hart of Cape May, N.J. and Mike Keene, of Easton, Maryland were both re-appointed to three-year terms.

This was the second re-appointment for Captain Hart, who only had a one-year term when the first appointments were made in 1976. Dave is a veteran commercial representative and was chairman of the Council for the first four years. During his retirement he's also been an avid sport fisherman and he's always given proper consideration to recreational fishing questions. Mike Keene is a weekend charter skipper, but his votes were usually cast against recreational interests—even on the crucial question of including bluefin tuna in the 200-Mile limit. None of the other "sport fishing" representatives on the Council could ever figure out why Mike took those positions, but, obviously, they found favor in Washington.

The inequitable representation accorded to New York continues, and surely won't be changed next year—when Nancy Goell and Bill Pell, the only public members from New York, come up for re-appointment. The only other two seats available at that time belong to Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Margaret Stamey, of Raleigh, North Carolina, was re-appointed to the South Atlantic Council and then became the first woman to be elected to chair a regional fishery management council. Welcome re-appointments include those of charter captain Billy Putnam, of Panama City, Florida, and John Green, Beaumont, Texas sportsman, to the Gulf Council and Herman McDevitt, of Idaho, to the Pacific Council. I was sorry to see that Captain Johnny Harms wasn't re-appointed to the Caribbean Council, nor was Hawaiian tournament director Peter Fithian to the Western Pacific.

Good News for Florida Anglers

According to a NMFS survey, the second most popular state (after New York) for Empire State anglers is Florida. Good news for fishermen planning to spend some time in the sunshine this winter is the passage of a ban on large wire mesh fish traps in Florida. A tremendous expansion in the trap fishery over the last several years has threatened already heavily impacted reefs—even those in relatively virgin waters, such as the Dry Tortugas. On May 22, the Florida House passed a bill (already approved by the Senate) by the overwhelming margin of 103-7. The Governor signed the bill into law in June, and it will become effective on October 1. Though the Dry Tortugas (where the "Viking Starship" fishes during the winter is under Federal jurisdiction, the bill provides that no trap caught fish can be landed in Florida. Florida League of Anglers President Robert C. Schwebke, hailed passage of the bill as, "the beginning of a new era of concerned awareness and cooperation in the conservation and management of declining marine resources." Schwebke noted that the bill is "designed to conserve existing stocks so as to ensure the continued livelihood of the hundreds of commercial hook and line fishermen who have traditionally produced 86% of the commercial landings of grouper and snapper; the charter boat and head boat operators; and those businessmen and women who serve the millions of recreational fishermen who contribute so handsomely to Florida's economy."

Not only do the traps catch a lot of fish on the reefs, but they also tend to chip away the fragile reef and, worst of all, become "ghost" fishermen when they break away and are lost. This is just one more illustration of what sport fishermen can accomplish when they get together and use some political muscle. A ban on dragging in Great South, Moriches and Shinnecock Bays will become effective on January 1 in New York because the Captree Boatmen's Association and Moriches Bay Association went to bat in order to save their fisheries. These organizations, plus Assemblyman William Bianchi, of Bellport, and Senator Owen Johnson of Babylon, are to be congratulated on their accomplishment.

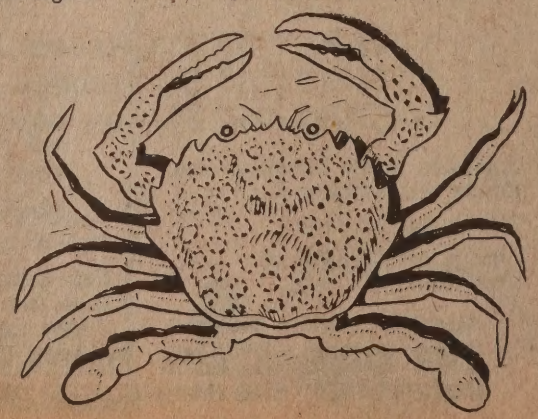
An Interesting Project in South Carolina

South Carolina Recreational Fisheries officials have come up with a unique idea to help improve angling success. They are constructing a six-thousand foot "trolling alley" thirty miles off Edisto Beach in seventy-two feet of water. The trolling alley will consist of two parallel lines of mid-water fish attractors. Each of the 120 fish attractors will consist of a twenty foot string of six car tires suspended vertically between a concrete anchor and a metal float. The ocean bottom off the South Carolina coast is mostly sand and it slopes quite gradually. The result is that offshore sportsmen are forced to make long runs offshore before even starting to fish. The trolling alley is being located at a relatively "inshore" site, where anglers often start trolling further offshore. The idea is to atrract mid-water species closer inshore so the fishermen can have good action and also save costly fuel. Previous studies of mid-water fish attractors indicate significantly higher fishing success as compared with blind trolling.

Javits' Loss No Loss To Conservationists

Senator Jacob Javits' loss to Alphonse D'Amato in the recent Republican primary came as good news to those who fought for the 200-Mile limit. Despite the best efforts of New Yorkers to awaken Javits to the damage being done by the foreign trawlers, he remained opposed to the 200-Mile limit right to the end—becoming one of twelve Senators to vote against the law. Several of those twelve have either retired or been defeated, and Senator Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) who tried to filibuster against the 200-Mile bill was dumped in his state's Democratic primary recently.

Bad news on the Democratic side in the Senate contest is that their primary winner, Elizabeth Holtzman, was also an opponent of the 200-Mile limit. And for those of you who may be considering John Anderson for President, just keep in mind that he not only voted against the 200-Mile bill when the issue was still in doubt, but he also was one of just fifty-two in the House who voted against the Senate-House Conference Report—after the issue was settled and President Ford had indicated he would sign it!



THE FIGHTING TUNAS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

POUND FOR POUND, FEW FISH PACK THE PUNCH OF A TUNA. WHEN TUNA REACH THE SIZE OF 700-1000 LBS. AS DO THE GIANT BLUEFINS, THEY ARE THE ULTIMATE IN BIG GAME FISHING WITH HOOK AND LINE. THE VARIOUS SPECIES SHOWN BELOW ARE ALL FOUND OFF THE NORTHEAST COAST AND THEY ARE ALL RELATED TO THE MACKEREL. BIG BLUEFINS ARE CALLED *"HORSE MACKEREL."*

BLUEFIN – OVERFISHED AND IN TROUBLE SINCE 1973. PROTECTED BY SIZE AND CATCH LIMITS AND MUST BE TAGGED. BLUEFIN BOATS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH THE NAT'L. MARINE FISHERIES. ITS OTHER RELATIVES ARE ALL IN GOOD SUPPLY.

BONITO - KNOWN AS TRUE OR GREEN BONITO. A SMALL FISH TO 10 LBS. WITH LITTLE FOOD VALUE.

ALBACORE – THE LONG FIN TUNA AND MOST VALUABLE COMMERCIALLY. IT IS THE ONLY TYPE ALLOWED TO CARRY THE LABEL *"WHITE MEAT TUNA."*

BIG EYE - A FINE FOOD AND SPORT FISH TAKEN COMMERCIALLY BY LONG-LINING AND MARKETED CANNED, FROZEN OR SALT DRIED.

SKIPJACK OR OCEANIC BONITO - TO 40 LBS. A STRONG FIGHTER WITH GOOD FOOD VALUE. CANNED WITH YELLOW FIN AND BIG EYE TUNA SOLD AS *"LIGHT MEAT TUNA."*

YELLOW FIN - MOST COLORFUL OF TUNAS AND HIGHLY VALUED AS A SPORT AND COMMERCIAL FISH.

BLACKFIN – ALSO KNOWN AS BERMUDA TUNA. GROWS TO 420 LBS. GREAT SPORT FISH AND ITS MEAT IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A GOOD FLAVOR.

LITTLE TUNNY OR FALSE ALBACORE IS CONFUSED WITH OTHER BONITOS AND SKIPJACK. ITS MEAT VALUE IS DEBATABLE, BUT HAS SOME COMMERCIAL VALUE.

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

INTERESTING TRIVIA

TRIVIA, BUT NOT TRIVIAL! When you are in the media business, a literal cascade of printed material flows past your eyes. Every aspect of the industry prints up news releases and other informative materials that they urge we share with you. Of course, regardless of what they call it, the effort is part of their advertising budgets. Most of the time the information is of little value to anybody and even less value to saltwater fishermen; but from time to time, somebody puts out some info that's really dynamite. One of the best is the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association. These are the folks who have been sponsoring "Take A Kid Fishing" and with good success. They also send out information sheets regularly and these sheets are topical, relevant, and informative. Today, I'd like to share a few of the recent ones with you.

ARTIFICIAL STRUCTURE. A number of columns back we reviewed the concept of building artificial fishing reefs. We gathered information from our New York State DEC and from a number of scientific papers and media articles. This information was useful, but lacked data. Well, the folks at AFTMA recently provided us with some revealing data that proves how useful the construction of artificial structure can be. True, the data is for a freshwater study and once again, this demonstrates that freshwater anglers are way ahead of us. They have long ago buried their private antagonisms, organized and stood up to be counted, and have had great success in improving the quality of their sport. The study was done at Barkley Lake in Kentucky. These folks used discarded brush to build up an artificial structure. After a suitable amount of time passed to allow natural growth to occur, the scientists went back to the site to determine how many fish had taken up residence there. They also sampled other areas of the lake for comparison. They found that the artificial structures concentrated 574 lbs. of crappie per acre compared to 4 lbs. in cove areas and 30.7 lbs. in open water. Much the same was found to be true for largemouth bass and bluegill. The structure held 54.1 lbs. of largemouth per acre as compared to 10.8 lbs. in coves and 4 lbs. in open water. There were 445.5 lbs. of bluegills at the brush pile, whereas in cove areas there were 21.3 lbs. per acre and 17.8 lbs. in open water.

FARFETCHED FOR SALTWATER? Perhaps the idea of a "brush" attractor seems like a farfetched idea for saltwater. However, it is a very positive way of attracting more fish regardless of where the structure is located. In saltwater, artificial reefs attract all kinds of fishes because the reef promotes more growth of life than would otherwise occur in open water. The first thing that happens is that barnacles and other minute marine life begins to grow. This attracts small saltwater fishes like blackfish, porgies, and sea bass, which then attract large species. Baitfish hang around the structure areas, too, because it isn't unusual for the plankton levels to be higher near the structure than some distance from it. The structure concept has more applications than simply providing better fishing. For one thing, these structure areas could be used for instructional purposes; that is, to improve the chances that a beginner would catch a fish following some instruction.

INSTRUCTION ON THE INCREASE. Believe it or not, formal teaching of basic fishing techniques is on the increase. There are several reasons for this including the general increase in interest in fishing across the nation. Second, marine biology programs that were once so popular in many colleges and universities in the early 1970s have fallen victims to tight budgets and the failure for careers in the field to keep pace with them. Thus, many young people look to fishing courses to fill the space. Then, too, more adults are looking to find outdoor recreation to fill in leisure time and provide some exercise at the same time. The net result is that there has been an across-the-board increase in interest in fishing courses across the nation. Typically, these courses are taught by the physical education or outdoor education/recreation departments. Many of the courses have also been offered under the continuing education banner. According to Professor James Helminiak of the University of Wisconsin there is another reason for the growing interest in fishing course in higher education. "For too long, curriculums have been geared to competitive sports programs that have been too costly to maintain on a per capita registration basis and that have excluded many students who aren't particularly athletic." Response to course offerings has been phenomenal. For example, consider the format put together at Indiana State University. They have been offering what they call a "Bass Fishing Institute" for four years. Last spring the enrollment for the program was 2000 students including adults of all ages who traveled

Handicapped students are able to participate in sport fishing activities whereas they may not be able to take part in competitive sports activities offered by colleges.

Adults are urged to take the time to point out safety hazards to children. Here an adult makes a minor repair and explains how to avoid the problem next time.

from nine states. For those of you out there who may not be too familiar with college programs and think after reading this that college students are having a ball and getting credit for doing nothing, courses like these are usually offered as electives and are intended to round-out a student's exposure to the vast world of diversity and at the same time, such courses are either given with no college credit or for only one or two credits as part of the physical education program. The opportunity to take such courses is severely restricted.

INFLATION AND FISHING! Fishing popularity is on the increase, a premise that we put forth in the above paragraph. We can look to a rapidly changing world to understand this increase in interest. America has suddenly awakened to the fact that leisure time is better spent in the outdoors than in a lounge chair in the yard. We have also begun to realize that we are an out-of-shape nation and that we need exercise. Jogging, tennis, hiking, camping, racketball, and fishing are examples of how America intends to get out in the fresh air and enjoy life. The final stroke in this economy orchestrated symphony has been inflation. Americans find themselves with more leisure time, but with less spendable income to enjoy. Perhaps the four-week family trip across the United States was a winner in 1966, but today it costs too much. Renting a cottage in the Hamptons or in Cape Cod was the "cat's meow" years ago, but, again, today it simply takes too much of the family's budget to pull it off. We have all become fuel conscious and we need to store away the bucks this summer for this winter's heating bill. However, according to AFTMA, Americans have found alternatives and one of them is to go fishing. Let's take a brief look at how costs have risen so we can see why so many of us want to go fishing close to home. These figures are for Washington, D.C., but only small adjustments need be made in order for these figures to represent any town or city in any of our states. Gasoline prices have risen sixty-eight percent last year; hotel and motel costs are up seventeen percent; air fares have increased thirty-six percent, and food has risen by an average of eleven percent this past year. Those increases are staggering to the average American family who has seen the family income increase only seven to ten percent! A recent study reveals how inexpensive a family weekend fishing trip can be. They estimated that the average family of four could fish for the weekend close to home for about $100 to $150 and that price tag includes equipment. Now, it is understood that the equipment mentioned is not of the highest quality, but will be serviceable for beginners and the casual fisherman. Such a family vacation may not be the most glamorous, but those expensive glamour vacations seem to leave the kids yawning, while with only modest fishing success the children will bask in the cheaper fishing vacations.

SAFETY FIRST! All outdoor activities may demand added safety precautions. If living in the outdoors is new to a family, special thought to safety should be a prime consideration. This holds true for children and adults alike; but time should be taken to give youngsters a little instruction about the special dangers of hooks, knives, watery environments, and casting. To help out the AFTMA has put together a small list of safety first items that are valuable for the long-time fishing family as well as that family going out fishing or camping for the first time:

Always fish with a companion.

When walking on ground near water, step carefully—there may be hidden mud holes or water pockets as well as grassed-over areas that may conceal deep water.

Go slow and easy when wading since the bottom can be slippery and it can be hard to see what the next step will bring.

Use special care in handling fishing equipment, especially hooks.

Always carry a first aid kit.

FIRST AID KIT! We often receive letters from readers who want to know what items should be included in a first aid kit. We aren't emergency medical technicians so we aren't really qualified to teach such a topic; but several readers and writers who are knowledgeable have made some good suggestions in that regard. The AFTMA has helped out by putting together a check list for a first aid kit and perhaps any interested readers might want to use this list as a beginning.

Band-Aids
Various sizes of adhesive tape
Antiseptic solution
aspirin
plastic bottles for drinking water
cold packs
elastic wraps of various sizes
gauze pads
soap
flashlight (with fresh batteries)
scissors and pliers
tweezers
tongue depressors
eyewash solution & eye cup
sunburn & insect bite lotions
insect repellent
telephone number of nearest ambulance service
phone number and location of nearest hospital

NEXT WEEK: The October winner in the Shakespeare Win-A-Rod Contest!

Maritime Communications,Inc.
377 Woodcleft Ave.
Freeport,N.Y. 11520
(516) 623-4421

SEAWAY COMMUNICATIONS, INC.
770 Shore Walk
Lindenhurst,N.Y. 11757
(516) 884-7171

SEATRONICS INC.
19 Front Street
Greenport,N.Y. 11944
(516) 477-1040
Also Montauk Hwy. Wainscott,N.Y.
(516) 537-3211

FURUNO
FR-240 MARK II
RADAR

- RANGE SCALES ½ TO 24N.M.
- HIGH SENSITIVITY, SOLID STATE,1C AMP.
- RUGGED,ALL METAL 2-UNIT CONST.
- 3' LOW PROFILE ANTENNA
- EASY TO INSTALL, OPERATE & MAINTAIN
- 3 KW PEAK POWER
- 24 RPM ROTATION RATE
- AUTOMATIC HEADING ALIGNMENT

LARGER MODELS ALSO AVAILABLE

The headlight's beam pierced the inky blackness as the buggy slowly threaded its way among the debris littering the Gilgo waterfront. I recognized the bleached trunk of a once-mighty tree and I swung the buggy into a wide circle, being careful not to allow the lights to shine towards the water, so that the tailgate rested a few feet from the high-water mark. As the vehicle came to rest, its occupants quickly set about setting up

SOPHISTICATED BLUEFISH

their gear: sand spikes set twenty feet apart, Coleman lantern lit and placed in a depression in the sand, terminal gear snapped into place on rods which had been strung beforehand, four foot beach gaff placed in an accessible place, eel bucket and rag removed from the cooler and set on the tailgate. With waders donned, a frisky eel was flipped out of the bucket onto the ground where it was quickly scooped with a handful of sand and impaled on the hook. With a mighty heave, the eel—aided by the five ounce sinker attached to the fishfinder rig—sailed into the unknown darkness. With a last check of the drag tension, the rod was placed in the spike as the surfman quickly set about setting up the second eleven foot stick.

Sounds like the start of a typical fall outing for striped bass. That possibility exists, but the prime quarry on this October night is teen-sized bluefish. What breed of chopper are these that require such an exotic bait? Years ago these blues were plugged from these same beaches during daylight. When that phase seemed to pass, mackerel or bunker chunks turned the trick for several seasons, and at times still do. But during the past year or so the bluefish roaming the Cedar/Gilgo area have acquired the tastes heretofore reserved for finicky cow bass. The question might be put forth as to why anyone would want to seek bluefish in this manner. When fishing is slow any kind of action is better than nothing; further more no one can dispute the savage fighting abilities of these brutes.

For those so inclined this fishing begins in mid-September, but many surfmen will be seeking more vigorous action on the north shore beaches or at Montauk during this early stage of the fall run. If time permits, these longer excursions can be undertaken with the close-in beaches fished in the interim during the two month period that this action is possible. The popular locations include, but are not limited to, the Old Channel at Cedar, the Cedar Bar, the Pines, the site of the old Coast Guard Station, at Gilgo, Tobay, and Parking Field #6 at Jones Beach. During the course of the season, changes in the pattern of the beach will occur, forming new bars and pockets which will become temporary hotspots until the sand shift once more and likely waters must again be scouted.

Surfmen who are not Babylon residents are permitted to drive the beach, upon securing a State Buggy Permit, from the Cedar bar west to the access road at the site of the old Coast Guard Station approximately one-half mile east of the Gilgo underpass. Anglers not equipped with buggies will find adequate parking in the lots at Cedar, Gilgo, Tobay and Parking Field #6. From these legal parking areas, it is but a short walk to several prime fishing locations.

Many of the regulars along this beach prefer to fish the outgoing tide with low water often more productive than high. Frequently the blues will feed in the white water created by the waves breaking over the high points of the bars which, in times of calm seas, occurs only at low water. Fish have been taken on all tides; therefore, don't postpone a trip because available time does not coincide with what is considered the choice tide.

Probably more important than tide is the direction and force of the wind. Most surfmen agree that white water is beneficial to surf fishing; therefore, winds from a southerly direction are preferred on this southern coast. Winds blowing due east or from the opposite quarter, west, sweep along the beach and if forceful enough will create a favorable chop and a wind loop in the line which makes it difficult to detect a pickup or set the hook. Normally strong winds from a northerly direction tend to flatten the surf and dirty the inshore waters by blowing sand and litter into the wash. Productive fishing can occasionally be found during the initial period of a lusty northerly blow for it will usually follow a weather change and a sufficient surf may have built under the effects of the previous winds.

Substantial equipment should be used when tackling these monster blues. Under ordinary conditions, eleven-and-a-half foot rods capable of casting four to six ounces of lead and an eel are used. When the surf is heavy, some veterans switch to thirteen foot rods in an attempt to gain that added leverage in the cast and a little extra height in order to keep as much line above the crashing waves as possible. At this time and when quantities of weed foul the wash, three to four foot sand spikes are used to gain the same effect. Most knowledgeable surfmen employ two rods in an effort to cover as much bottom as possible. One line is cast short, just over the breakers, while the other is heaved as far as possible or to a specific cut or pocket in the bar. On occasion, the fish will prowl the lip created just seaward of the breaking waves, but then again, they might prefer that deep hole lying a fair distance off the beach.

Reels equivalent to the Crack 300, the Penn 704 or the new Penn model 750 and spooled with fifteen to twenty pound test good quality line should be used. More important, though, is to have a drag which is operating flawlessly, for one sudden surge from a powerful blue against a sticking drag can result in a lost fish and terminal gear.

The terminal gear used almost exclusively when fishing with live eels is the time-honored fishfinder rig. These rigs can be purchased at moderate cost at any well-stocked tackle store or quickly fashioned from two snap swivels. The line is threaded through the plastic eye of the fishfinder, after which an eighty-five pound test Duo-Lock snap is tied to the end of the line with either a clinch or Palomar knot. If using two snap swivels, pass the line through the eye of one swivel and tie the end to the eye of the other. A four to six ounce pyramid sinker, depending on surf conditions, is placed in the large eye of the fishfinder. In this way the fish can pick up the bait without feeling the weight of the sinker.

Many novice anglers neutralize the reason for using the fishfinder rig by placing the rod in a sand spike with the line taut and the drag locked down tight. In order for the game fish to take the bait without feeling added pressure, the drag should be set as loose as possible, just the slightest amount of tension to prevent the line from being in a state of total free spool. When the hook has to be set, the angler can cup the spool with his left hand. If the fish is engaged, he can apply pressure with part of his hand while tightening the drag to the desired degree. The thought that a drag must be set before hand and left untouched during the course of the fight is discounted by many veteran surfmen. A fairly loose drag can have additional tension applied during the fight by pressing on the lip of the spool with the fingers of the hand operating the reel handle.

Although the vast majority of knowledgeable surfmen condemn the flashing of bright lights, such as headlights, into the water, it is a matter of much debate as to the effect a Coleman type lantern has on the fishing. In order to gain the benefit of seeing the rod tip without allowing the beam to shine directly into the water an increasing number of anglers will place the lantern in a scooped out depression in the sand so that the light illuminates the rod tips and not the surf line. Very often rods placed on the outer fringes of the lighted area are indistinct; therefore, the practice of

painting the tip of the rod white from the first guide to the tiptop is advised. To take this thought one step further, fluorescent tape can be wound around the same part of the rod. This tape will make the tip more conspicuous when used with an artificial light.

An angler cannot pay strict attention to each rod for all the time spent fishing. Other necessary duties must be performed which could unluckily coincide with the moment a fish decides to take the bait. Many sly surfmen remove the dog from the spools of their reels so that when fishing at night fishermen nearby are unaware that a fish is on and taking drag. In bottom fishing, this can be a disadvantage for the click on a spool will signal a distracted angler that a pick-up has occurred. Anglers using conventional reels often leave the reel in free spool with the click engaged to achieve the same results.

At first glance the practice of using live eels for bluefish bait may seem expensive but when purchased in quantity the price can be reduced considerably. A cheap aerator, such as used in small fish tanks, and a plastic tub set in the back yard will keep a considerable number of eels alive indefinitely. The practice used by my old buddy George is to put the eels in an eel cart and just dump them into the swimming pool. Even after being frozen over the winter, he still had twenty live eels left this spring.

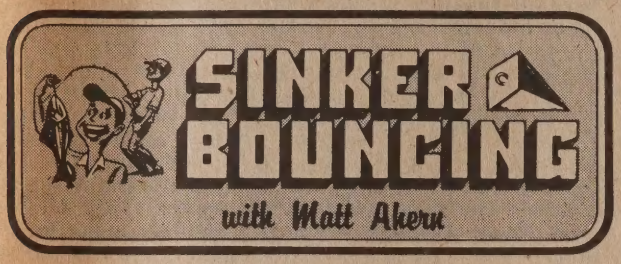
The size eels most preferred by surfmen range from ten to fifteen inches in length; anything larger than this makes casting difficult. The major problem encountered when fishing with live eels is their tendency to twist into a knot in their efforts at backing off the hook. This most often occurs when an exceptionally lively eel is placed on the hook; therefore, some anglers give the eel's head a few sharp raps against the side of the cooler. This will take some of the life out of the eel, for awhile at least, and also aid in placing the hook precisely where it is wanted. Another tip to facilitate handling the eel is to grab the eel with a handful of sand for this will counteract the natural slime and ensure a better grip. Because of this annoying trait, the terminal gear should be checked after the first ten minutes or so; after this time the eel usually settles down and behaves until it is killed by crabs or more happily engulfed by a game fish. At any time when bottom fishing the gear should be checked about every twenty minutes. Other obstacles which will reduce the chances of enticing a strike are: a rig covered with weed, a dead eel shredded by crabs or possibly the line drifting from its intended position and washed ashore down the beach.

One of the two most argued aspects of eel fishing concerns the placement of the hook. Wherever it is placed, the hook point should not pierce the brain or the spine. I have tried most of the acceptable methods when seeking blues and prefer placing the hook through the back about two-thirds of the distance from the head to tail. If an angler has no preconceived opinions, try each method and choose the one which works best. For a starter, the eel can be hooked in the tail, the middle of the back, through both eyes; one jaw or two and if he really wants to get cut, rig the eel fore and aft with a tandem hook rig.

Wire leaders are a must when baitfishing for giant bluefish. The nylon coated wire is favored over the more rigid and durable piano wire. This wire can be purchased in thirty foot coils along with the sleeves and a crimping tool which will permit an angler to fashion his own leaders more cheaply than when buying ready mades. Several leaders should be finished beforehand, for this wire becomes frayed and kinked after a few encounters with a bluefish's dentures. Also deeply embedded hooks can be unsnapped and a new rig placed on the line quickly rather than taking unwarranted chances with the fingers around these razor sharp teeth. For most occasions, a six inch leader is sufficient; any lengths over this is wasteful.

For all their fighting ability these monster blues often pick up the eel with the gentleness of a mother with a newborn child. When this happens, feed the blue all the line it needs until a sudden increase in pressure is felt, at which time set the hook hard. Now you'll see that its dawdling was a ruse and its true nature will come forth. Hold onto that rod and give no quarter, for that is what you can expect from that wild animal fighting for its life. Even after it is left flopping on the beach staring at you with that cold fisheye, just waiting for the chance to snap at a careless finger and even the score.

Smart surfmen keep a "plugging stick" at the ready...just in case. The angler in the background is working on a big chopper.



FALL FLOUNDER FISHING

Well...it's that time of year again. Hard to believe, for it seems as if only yesterday we fellows were chasing the last of summer's departing fluke. But whether we like it or not, fall is here; which means every dedicated fisherman I know has ears and eyes open for those first reports of fall flounder. It wouldn't surprise me one bit if by the time you read this some of those fellows have already scored. Whenever I have an opportunity to do so, I don't mind jumping the gun and dunking a worm or two in an area such as Shinnecock Canal, which is noted for its early action. Most times if the fishing is good, I'll turn up a half-dozen or so fat fall flounder. Only trouble is, this early fishing isn't dependable. But when the first week of October arrives, I get down to serious fishing.

I don't know whether you are a newcomer to the fishing game or an old-timer. If the latter, you better turn the page and browse further, for what you read here will be nothing new to you. But if you're just getting your feet wet, so to speak, read on and I'll do my best to help you put a few flounder in your bucket.

I also have no way of knowing where you'll be fishing, but what follows will apply—with perhaps minor differences due to locale. These differences are mostly in the category of water depth.

For instance, when first arriving, fall flounder will seek out the deepest water in your fishing area. Flounder are cool-water fish. They will always attempt to locate temperatures similar to what they have enjoyed during the summer hiatus in the ocean. And in early October, inland waters have not cooled off sufficiently for fall flounder to fan out on the flats and bars. This is more likely to occur toward the end of the month. But for now, look for your flounder in the deepest parts of your fishing area.

I wrote this same bit of advice on fall flounder a year or so ago, and I received much flack about it—one fellow going so far as to accuse me of being an armchair fisherman. Now, that one really hurt. But in defense, all I can say is that I write nothing about the ways of flounder (or any of our bottom feeders) that I have not experienced myself over and over again. And this depth-business is what I have noticed about fall flounder for a good, long time.

Let me give an example of what I mean.

Many years ago I joined several fellows for a fall flounder trip to Mastic Beach. We knew little about flounder fishing at the time, but we weren't exactly inexperienced. I no longer recall where we fished, but I do know it was in shallow water, probably no more than five or six feet—so shallow it was unnecessary to reel. We did catch flounder, though; but not as many or as large as we had expected after all the publicity given that area at the time. (Back in the mid-Thirties.)

When we returned to the fishing station with our meager catch, there were several other rowboats just pulling in. We went over to see how those fellows had done. To our chagrin, we saw these fishermen removing good-sized flounder by the bushel basket. A few questions brought out the fact that we had been fishing in water much too shallow for that time of year (early October). Had we searched for deeper water, we were told, we, too, would have "knocked 'em dead."

One more story to press home the point and we'll get to catching fall flounder. Most of this was written last year in a fall flounder fishing article, but it brings out what I'm trying to say so well, it bears repeating.

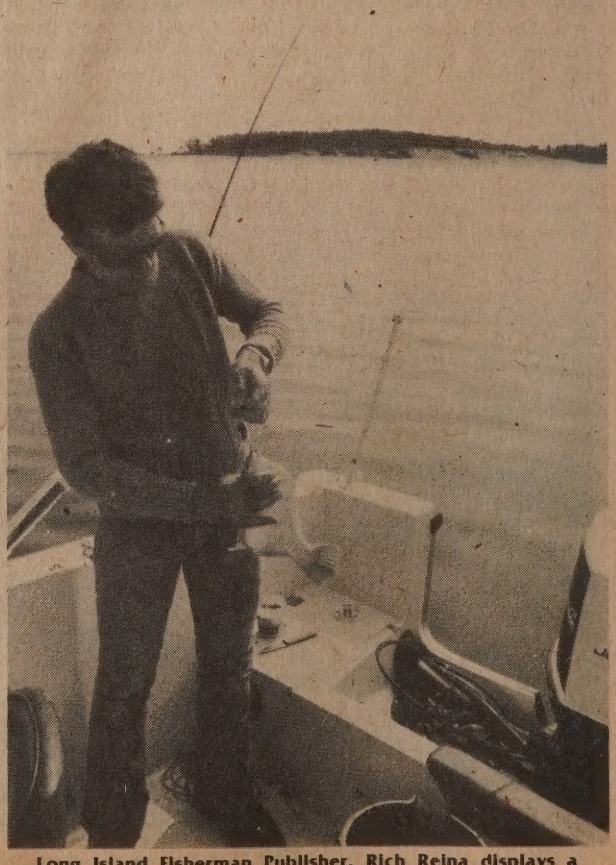
Those fellows who fish the Island Park area of Reynolds Channel know fishing can be pretty good. It is often difficult not to come up with some sort of action. I began my spring flounder fishing there in the late Twenties, and I followed the seasonal supply of fish, catching fluke, kingfish, lafayettes, etc.; even crabbing was excellent in the backwater creeks, with Schaeffer's Creek producing some of the largest blue claws I've ever seen. You might say Island Park was the best inshore fishing area for local anglers.

But when I tried those channel areas for fall flounder, especially around buoy 9 which had produced super spring flounder fishing, I was sorely disappointed. Once again, as in Mastic Beach, I caught flounder but the supply and size were indeed poor. I gave up entertaining any prospects of fall flounder fishing in Island Park.

Then in the late Thirties I met Nick Hauck. Now, as far as I'm concerned, Nick is the best flounder fisherman I have ever met. I cannot outfish him on flounder, just as I cannot outfish Artie Leidecker on cod. I just cannot do it unless the fishing gods become deliriously happy and smile my way—and it takes a lot of smiling, believe me.

Anyway, the first year of our acquaintance, Nick and I put in our time spring flounder fishing in Island Park, and as the season progressed, we fished fluke in Schaeffer's Creek and throughout Reynolds Channel, often doing quite well for rowboat fishing. Then one day the subject of fall flounder fishing came up. I told Nick to forget it—nothing but a waste of time. But Nick was an old hand at Island Park fishing and he told me I wasn't fishing in the right place. Deep water was necessary at that time of year, he said, and the deeper, the better. Which to him meant Schaeffer's Creek with its twenty-five to thirty foot depths. Come October, he'd show me what he meant.

And he did. I don't think a day passed when we failed to catch fewer than thirty flounder in the deep water of Schaeffer's Creek, with most trips averaging forty-five to sixty. And the colder the weather became as the season advanced, the larger the fish became. We knocked 'em



Long Island Fisherman Publisher, Rich Reina displays a nice fall run flounder.

dead there for a good many years.

So, you beginning fall flounder fishermen pay heed.

I'm aware that many flounder fishing areas do not contain thirty foot depths, but there is nothing to prevent you from obtaining a chart of the area you plan to fish and checking it for the deepest parts—even a difference of five feet means a lot. Do this at the beginning of the season and watch your catch of fall flounder increase.

When the water takes on the coming season's chill, you can fish those shallower areas if you wish, for it is then when the fish seek out a little warmth. But even so, don't overlook those deeper sections at any time. They often pay off handsomely.

All right; with all that out of the way, let's catch some fall flounder.

Spinning tackle is used for many fish, even those for which it isn't intended; but when fishermen decide to use light spinning gear for flounder, they just cannot go wrong. I've always known flounder were sporty, even when I caught them with handlines in the long ago, and with rods having the resiliency of a two-by-four. But it wasn't until I first used spinning tackle that Freddie Flounder showed what he could do if given half a chance.

There is spinning tackle, and there is spinning tackle, world without end. Which is for you when flounder fishing is difficult to answer, simply because I don't know where you intend to fish. Light tackle calls for one or two ounce bank sinkers. Three or four ounce sinker requirements mean you should use medium-weight stuff. Any place you fish which requires more weight than that means only that you are fishing in the wrong place. Flounder fishing results are always best where currents move slowly. Back-bay areas, creeks, and so forth, provide those necessary slow-moving currents; therefore, you are advised to keep such areas in mind.

Spinning reels should match the rod and be of a name brand. On this I am a stickler. Forget those Hong Kong Specials put on the market to entrap unwary fishermen. You are wasting your money. Fill that good reel with six or eight pound test good quality monofilament and you're in business for a good, long time. But that "bargain" reel will give up the ghost in short order—usually at the most crucial time. If there was ever an example of "penny wise, pound foolish," this is it.

Now we come to hooks. And if the mention of that word doesn't do something to you, perhaps you are in the wrong sport. I'm not trying to be a smart aleck by saying that, for there has never been a fisherman worth his salt who hasn't been mesmerized by the mere mention of fishhooks. Talk to an interested fisherman about your latest good catch and if he doesn't ask somewhere in the conversation what kind of hooks you used, I'll eat these words.

But as with spinning tackle, there are also fishhooks, world without end. Of a hundred flounder fishermen selected at random, you will find most are using what has been long accepted as the only flounder hook: a Chestertown, either #9 or #10. (There isn't much difference in size between the two, except that the steel in the number nine is slightly heaver.)

There is nothing wrong with this hook. It certainly does the job and I've caught my share of flounder with them. But I haven't used one in nearly fifty years. I gave up on them a long time ago, all right. What I use instead is a plain, regular-shanked #6 Sproat. To look at this hook, first appearances haven't much going for them. But when I tell you I've caught thousands upon thousands of flounder with them—believe it. I kid you not. They never miss, which is something to bear in mind at this time of year when flounder are frisky, a time when they must be hooked the instant they nip the bait.

Many tackle shops carry these hooks—though not all; and tackle companies which advertise in The Fisherman also carry them—though not all. You may find it necessary to scout around for them, or write off for catalogs, but any effort is well worth your trouble. You've heard of suicide hooks? Well, the #6 regular-shanked Sproat is a suicide hook for flounder.

These are loose hooks and they will have to be snelled (unless you are fortunate enough to secure some commercially tied). But don't let this throw you. Those catalogs and some tackle shops often have snelling material in various weights. You'll need ten pound stuff for best results. (Fifteen or twenty will do, if need be.)

But you say, heck and tarnation, I don't know how to snell hooks. Don't fret, friend. Just send a stamped, self-addressed #10 business size envelope to me at my home: 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, New York 11946—and I'll send you a free copy of DuPont's 32-page booklet on knot tying. Besides containing a host of dandy knots for guys like us, there are two methods on snelling hooks with easy-to-follow diagrams. One thing: don't send your request to the office as I do all my work at home and this will only entail unnecessary expense. I'll get the booklet off to you by return mail.

You should also learn how to tandem-tie your flounder rigs. This is necessary because your hooks must be on bottom to catch flounder. Hi-lo rigs simply will not do. But tandem tying is easy.

To tandem tie, take two flounder hooks and fold the snell of one at its middle. Then pass this fold through the knotted loop of the second hook. Finally, run this hook through the first fold, draw up tightly, and secure with an overhand knot. This last step is important; don't overlook it. Should you do so, one snell will ride down on the other, causing much frustration. Practice a few times until it becomes second nature.

Place this rig about two inches above the sinker, using simple one-inch loop formed with a double-overhand knot. Some fishermen use a small three-way swivel in place of the loop, but I don't think it is necessary—and remember the old-timer's bottom fishing adage: the less hardware, the better.

If you expect to do much casting, and the day is windy, direct line-tying may cause fouling about the main line. To avoid this, simply use a sinker snap and place both rig and sinker together. You may lose some of the sensitivity needed at this time of year, but you won't be driving yourself to distraction.

Now for bait—which can be a big order when discussing flounder fishing. Actually, there would be no problem writing an entire article on this interesting subject. But I'll try to keep it short because space is running out...and probably by this time I'm boring you to death, anyway, and you're wishing I'd get on with it.

Many baits are used for flounder: worm, mussel, clam (soft, hard, skimmer, either fresh, frozen, or dyed—you name it, all have been used with good results at one time or another). But what should you use? A good rule of thumb is to put your faith in blood or sandworm at this time of year when the water is still on the warmish side. Toward the end of the month, and certainly during November and December, put that faith in one of the clams—preferably soft clam (steamers). You should always bring at least two different baits because flounder can be quite finicky at times. A supply of marine worms and a few clams will do nicely, just in case.

All baits should be cut into inch-and-a-half pieces. Clam should be sliced thinly—the same thickness as a worm will do fine. Don't let the flounder's small mouth fool you. You'll get more action with the recommended size than you will with small pieces.

I leave the question of chum up to you. I rarely use chum when fall flounder fishing, leaving this activity for springtime. But if you wish to, fill a chum pot with crushed bank mussel for best results. Smashed soft clam is okay, too. Or you can crush these underfoot and toss them overboard, gauging the current so the pieces wind up near your baited hooks. I'll tell you right now that if the tide is of any strength, this method will pull the fish away from you. Nick Hauck is the only fisherman I know who can successfully do this without difficulty under these conditions. Better to rely on the pot. But as noted before, I don't feel chumming is necessary in the fall because the fish are active and on the move.

Anyway, fall flounder will soon be on tap. The information you've just read will help you get your share. You can rely on it for it has brought me flounder continuously for nearly sixty years.

Armchair fisherman, indeed!

THAT FALL BLACK MAGIC

Part One — by Andy Regina

The big fish put an incredulous bend in the stout boat rod as it fought to regain the sanctuary of the reef below, from whence it had been unceremoniously yanked by a piece of tempered steel that was connected to thirty pound test monofilament line. Eddie the mate, scuttled over to the corner pocket of the party boat where I was struggling with a fish that was taking line easily, in short spurts, each time it made a concerted lunge for the bottom. The tight, yet properly adjusted drag, allowed line to slip from the reel before breaking. This finally did the fish in, and Eddie netted the beaten brute as it finned on the surface. When the fish hit the deck, it was a toss-up who was more tired—me or the fish; and I paused for a moment's rest, basking in the smug satisfaction that comes after any hard-won battle.

If visions of the above scene conjure memories of big game triumphs or dreams of battling exotic behemoths, I couldn't blame you one bit, though nothing could be farther from the truth. Actually, we were fishing protected inshore waters on Long Island Sound, and the prize we sought was blackfish.

Called blackfish in New York and New Jersey, tautog in New England, and white chin farther south, Tautoga onitis is a member of the wrasse family Labridae, saltwater fishes comprising about 450 species, including the bergall (cunner), and all distinguished by their heavy pharyngeal or "throat" teeth, which are used to crush hardshelled food. It is a plain colored fish, with usually a dark greyish or greenish-brown background and irregular black blotches giving it a mottled appearance. The short stocky body ends in a square tail, but the most distinguishing characteristic is its mouth, featuring thick, rubbery lips and chipmunk-like buck teeth, used to pry mussels and barnacles off rocks or wrecks—structures that comprise much of the tautog's habitat.

This bottom dweller is further equipped with a tough skin, covered with small, tight scales that permit it to move among the barnacled structures fearlessly. And those tough tautogs really hug those rocks, feeding on the shell life by first prying it loose with those chisel-like front teeth, then passing it shell and all back to their throat teeth. Here the shells are crushed and passed into the stomach, where they are digested before being passed through the anal vent as waste.

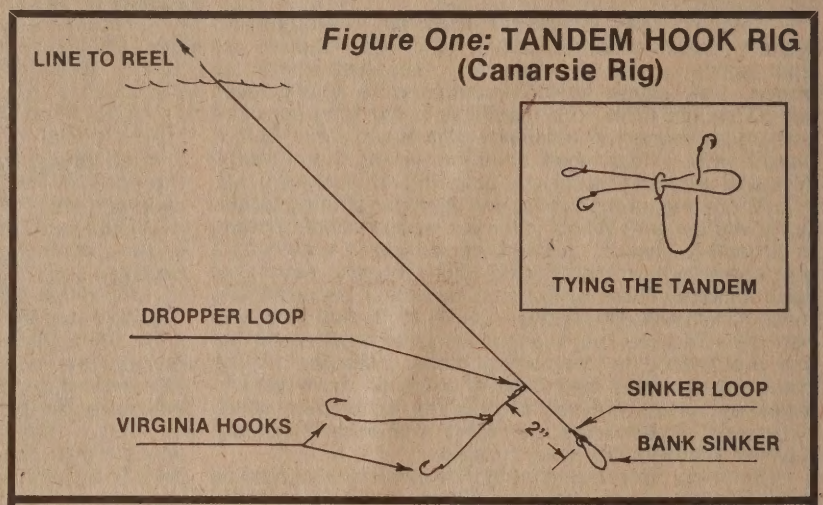


Figure One: TANDEM HOOK RIG (Canarsie Rig)

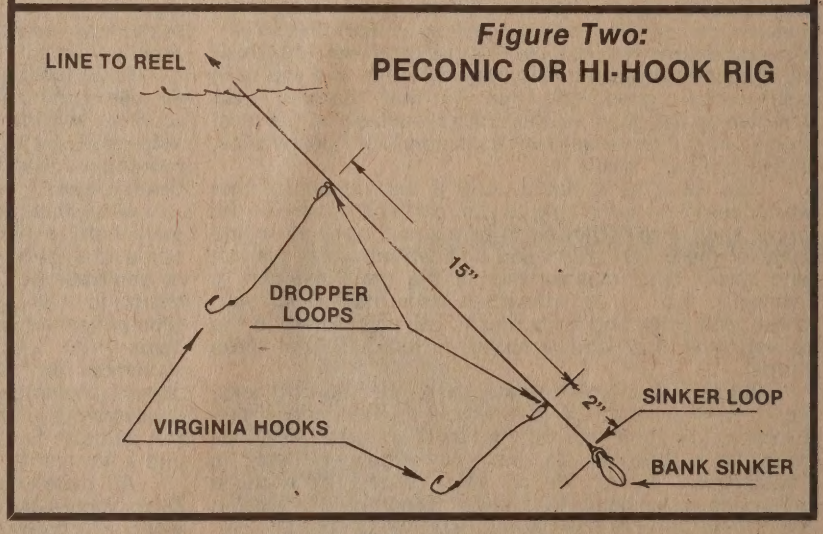
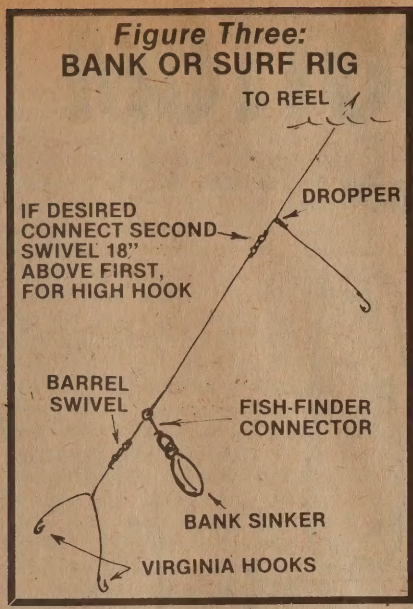
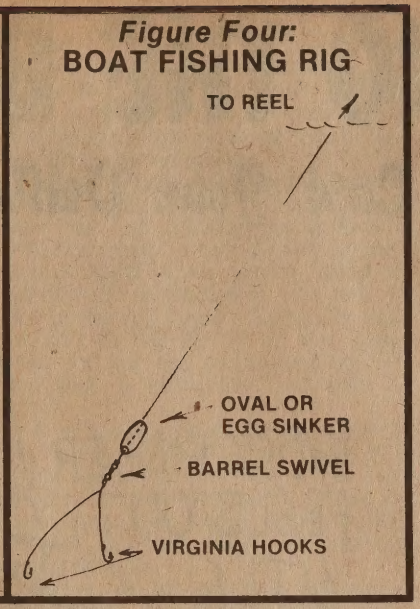


Figure Two: PECONIC OR HI-HOOK RIG

Reaching weights into the twenty pound class, the average blackfish is about three pounds, although plenty of ten pound fish come to net each year. Preferring cool water, the fish winter offshore in about sixty feet of water, where they lay dormant, in a state closely resembling suspended animation. Each spring the fish spawn, then come inshore to feed, accompanied closely by the newly fertilized eggs that drift inshore also, where they hatch. These same inshore waters not only provide a banquet room for adult fish, but a nursery for the newly-hatched babies that feed and grow amongst the seaweed.

In summer, when inshore waters have warmed too much to suit their taste, adult fish move offshore again, or into deeper water, where they can continue to be caught, especially over wrecks. Fall sees a repeat of the inshore migration, when blackfish return to shallow water to put on the feedbag, before chilling temperatures send them offshore once again for their winter rest. This repeated inshore/offshore movement is the sum total of any migration this stay-at-home indulges in; any lateral migration, on the order of other species such as mackerel, striped bass, or bluefish, is nil. Blacks prefer one specific locality, although they are found the length of the eastern





coast, from Nova Scotia to North Carolina.

The blackfish's diet is extensive, covering a wide range of mollusks and crustaceans, and including seaworms and small baitfish. This gourmet diet gives the fisherman a wide variety of baits from which to choose, although the most commonly used baits are clams, fiddler crabs, and green crabs, which are stocked by all coastal bait shops catering to tautog fishermen.

Blackfish may well be the one species of fish that must be fished for with one particular style of hook, created with this fish's peculiarities in mind. Though you may get by with other hooks, the one hook that will outcatch all others all the time is the Virginia. This hook is so overwhelmingly popular, that should you walk into any tackle shop and ask for blackfish hooks, it is the only hook you will ever receive. Naturally though, the hook size should be determined by the size of the fish being sought. Larger sizes are in demand for offshore wreck fishing or deep water reef fishing. Here sizes from two to four predominate, while anglers fishing bays and other inshore waters prefer the smaller sizes, say from size five to size eight.

Rigging for blackfish is relatively simple, consisting of the basic tandem rig, or "Canarsie" rig; the hi-lo rig, for fishing offshore wrecks; and the sliding sinker or fishfinder rig, that can be used from the beach or from a boat.

For the tandem rig, tie one hook to your line two inches above the sinker, then bend the snell of that hook about halfway before inserting it into the eye-loop of the second hook, which is then drawn completely through the bent snell of that first hook. Both hooks should then be married securely together with a simple overhand knot that will prevent override. (See Fig. 1)

Hi-lo rigs (Fig. 2) consist of one hook tied directly above a sinker, and a second hook about eighteen inches above that, to ensure tangle-free fishing. At times you may be able to avoid excessive fouling on bottom by eliminating one hook; this reduces your hook-snagging odds by fifty percent, but it also reduces your fish-catching potential by fifty percent too, by eliminating one bait. These odds are usually offset because you will spend more time productively, by not becoming snagged. Here the choice is up to you—you pays your money and you takes your chances.

Many fishermen prefer using a line unencumbered by sinker weight, which allows a more acute sense of feel, especially when fish bite. The beach rat uses the fishfinder rig (Fig. 3), which is created by attaching a connector to a sinker; run the end of the line through the other loop of the connector, then tie the line to one end of a barrel swivel. The tandem-tied hooks are then connected to the remaining loop of the barrel sinker, that now acts to keep those hooks from sliding through the connector on the retrieve. Fish will not become alarmed by unnatural sinker weight, and every slight nibble will be sensed easily, because of the free-running line.

Boat fishermen desiring this effect use a similar rig. Run the end of your line through a barrel or egg sinker, and connect it to one eye-loop of a barrel swivel (Fig. 4). Tie your tandem-tied hooks to the remaining swivel eye, and you're all set to bait up. Here, once again, the line rides resistance-free through the sinker, and the swivel keeps the hooks from slipping into the sinker when you retrieve, giving the boatman the same advantage as the surf fisherman.

So far, we've discussed the habits and the life style of blackfish, the proper hooks to use for 'em, and correct rigging techniques. Next week we'll discuss baits and fishing techniques.

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HOLDING THE BOTTOM

by Capt. John DeMaio

One of the most frustrating situations for a captain is to leave the fish biting, only because the customers cannot catch them. They can't catch the fish because they don't get the bites. They don't get the bites because they can't hold the bottom. This problem is particularly indigenous to Montauk waters.

At Montauk, tides run hard and many fishing areas are in deep water. Generally speaking, it would be out of the question for a head boat to anchor up in a running tide. In doing so, only the anglers in the stern would be able to fish. Those on the sides and in the bow would be hard pressed to work their lines correctly. It is common practice for the head boats to drift through the running tide and then anchor during the slack water periods. This usually works best because the fish will cooperate with this plan. If all goes well the fishermen will have a good pick going while drifting and then a leap job when at anchor. Of course, the best laid plans run afoul. The fish will bite better at anchor in the height of the tide. Most often, this is discovered by accident. A boat will anchor up at the end of one tide and fish into the next tide. Only, instead of the fishing slowing down as the flow of tide increases, they will bite better. The ability to keep the sinker on the bottom, enabling the fish to reach the bait, becomes a must.

This is one phase of fishing where the science, experience and the feel I keep talking about, all come into play at once. In this endeavor to teach you how to stay on the bottom and catch, I can offer only a portion of the prerequisite.

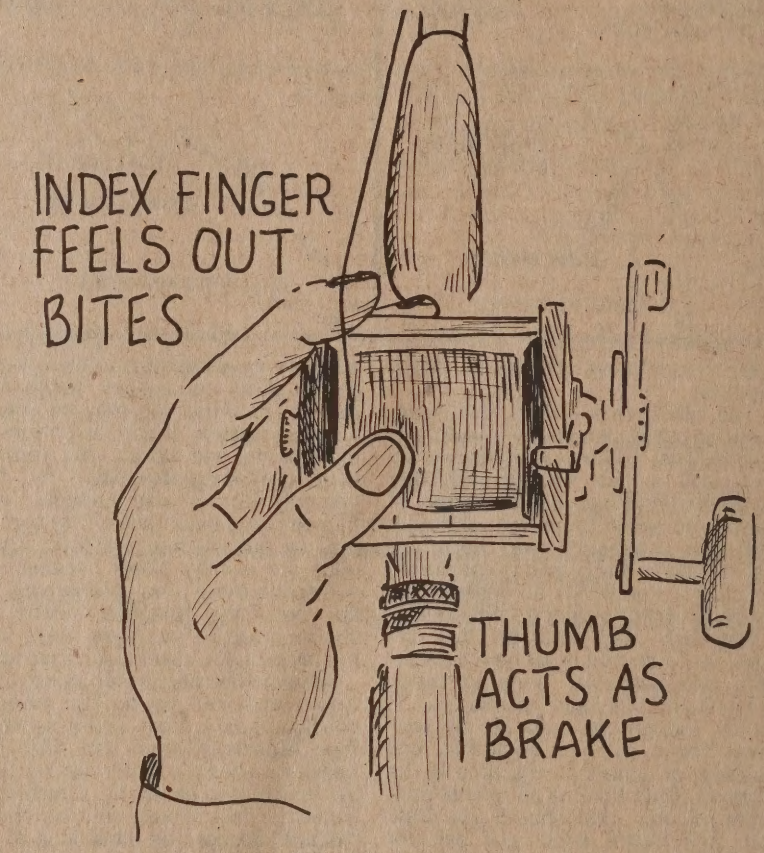
The science I can give. Also, I can give you the knowledge part of the experience. Not the physical. The feel must be developed on your own. I will offer you rod positioning to enable you to maintain this so-called feel. But Dr. Jeff, that's all I can do. The rest will be up to you. Always use the lightest sinker possible. This allows you a better feeling of what's going on below. (Many times a fish will take the bait very gingerly, resulting in hardly a sensation on the human end of the line. When the fish are biting in such a manner, a light sinker helps you feel the action.) So, when the tide is running, you can expect your line to be out on an angle, never straight up and down.

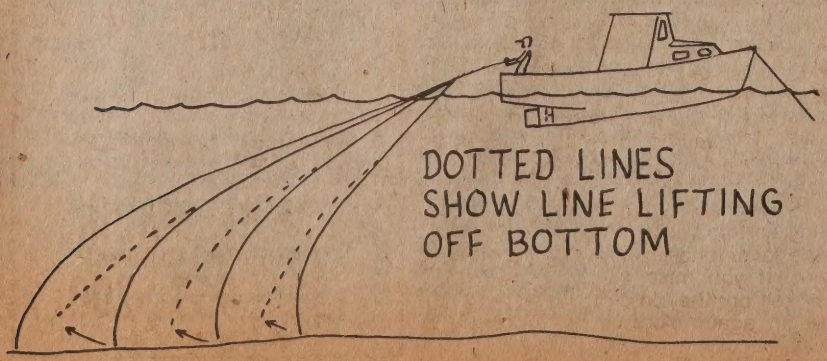
Change your sinker weights gradually. Don't go from a two ounce to an eight in one move. Work your way up at two ounce stages. The sinker size, pound test line, and strength of tide will determine the line angle.

Correct sinkers are important. Never use anything like a pyramid type. Stay with the bank shape sinker. Be sure the weight stated on your sinker is the true weight. I have seen many sinkers that were lighter than stated. To an experienced angler, this isn't important. One look at a lump of lead will tell him if it can do the job. Never use two sinkers at once. It doesn't work well. One six ounce sinker will hold the bottom better than two fours.

Let's begin this with how to hold the rod. The drawing shows the finger positioning. This is not the only position, but if you're beginning it will do for a start. Later you can apply what you have learned to some other position.

The reel is in free spool. When you strike a fish you hold down on the spool with your thumb and then engage the reel when you retrieve. Always hold your rod low to the water





when waiting for the bite. This allows for room to slow lift on the bite. Or even to swing back at the bite. If your rod is up in the air you have very little room left for setting the hook.

As the tide pulls against your line, it will slowly raise the sinker off the bottom. You can feel this happening because of the line passing over your index finger. The line feels heavier, or the pull is stronger. When you feel this happening, release the pressure on your thumb and let the line go until you feel the sinker hit the bottom. Stop the line right there by putting the pressure back on with the thumb. Once again, you wait for the bite or until you feel the sinker lifting off the bottom, then you repeat the process once more. Some anglers call this "Bouncing the line back." You may want to bounce your line back because the fish are laying way behind the boat. (This often occurs because this is where the chum has ended up.) To speed up the bouncing back process, you can keep raising the rod each time the sinker hits. Remember, when you raise the sinker off the bottom in a running tide, you will require a good deal more line to get it back to the bottom again. So, except for wanting to get your line way back behind the boat in a hurry, never raise your rod needlessly when waiting for a bite. Some fish, such as flounder, will lay on the hook and never be felt. A slow lift is a must. Here again, hold your rod low to allow room for the lift and to set the hook.

At this point, I would like to put in order a gross misunderstanding by inexperienced anglers. It is impossible to continually feel the bottom when anchored in the manner described. You only feel it once and that's when the sinker hits bottom. Every time you lift and release you should feel the sinker bounce. To say, "I can't feel the bottom," is half correct. At times you will lose complete control of where you are. Reel up and start all over again.

Try holding your rod into the angle of the line, giving you a straight line from sinker to index finger. Don't allow the line to bend over the rod guides. Every time the fishing line bends over a guide, it diminishes the feel. If your bait is missing every time and you "never felt a thing," try holding the fishing line in your hand.

Your biggest problem is keeping the line from overriding. Overriding is created by the force of tide against the line. This driving force puts a belly in your line. Except for the use of wire line, it is impossible to fish your line directly to the sinker. The sketch shows what is happening when fishing in a running tide.

Never allow more line to run off the reel after you feel the sinker hit. This makes for a long belly in your line. The belly will drag your sinker down-tide and eventually make it hang the bottom—you will never know it is stuck on the bottom. The tide pushing on the belly created by too much slack will result in a feeling similar to that of the sinker. I would like to have a buck for every time I reeled in a couple hundred feet of line only to find that the rig was hung up under the boat all the while. Always keep in mind that it is the force of the swift current that puts the tension on the line, not the sinker.

Using too heavy a sinker produces a similar effect. With the heavy lead you lose feel, thereby being forced into overriding. You may want to use heavy leads when you're using a second rod. A dead line; one that is left in the rod holder. Generally you would fish this line short and away from the line you're working behind the boat. A heavy lead will hold it short.

This is one style of fishing where I can safely say that lighter lines will catch more fish. Not only more, but bigger fish. And once again (I hate to keep doing this), I must condemn the use of spinning reels, the reason being obvious.

Use a rod at least six feet long. Short sticks will not allow for the long lift. Don't forget you're hooking the fish through the belly in the line. Long rods allow for the necessary follow through to hook the fish. A short snap of the rod will not work. A long follow-through when hooking your fish will drive the hook home.

Avoid using extra tying gimmicks on your bottom rig. Unnecessary hardware only makes for more drag. More drag, more weight; more weight, less feel; less feel—no fish. On light lines, a short piece of leader joined by a small barrel swivel is all that's needed. Make loops in the leader to tie on the sinker and hooks. Learn how to make a barrel loop.

Many of you readers may find this a strange beast to control. Even anglers with experience are not able to hold bottom. I can say that most of my customers are unable to accomplish this. Some of them are excellent anglers. It is just that they have never had the occasion to fish in this manner. Montauk will eventually offer the occasion. We do it here on porgies, sea bass, codfish, pollack, flounder and blackfish. Porgies and cod mostly. The porgies being the most difficult to catch.

When I first received my M-1 rifle in the Army, that also was a strange beast. They used the word B.R.A.S.S. to teach me how to shoot: Breathe, relax, aim, sight and shoot. I can remember the first day on the range. The Sergeant let some kid from Kentucky show us how easy it was. (He was raised around rifles and such.) We were all impressed. Well, let me tell you something. This little city boy listened to what I was told and I ended up shooting rings around that farm kid from Kentucky.

So why can't you learn how to hold the bottom? Just remember to put special emphasis on feeling the sinker out. If you miss the bounce of the sinker on the descent, reel up and begin again. Always be in control. Good Luck.

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OPPOSITE NARRAGANSETT INN

Bluefish Love Steak Too!

by Capt. Zac Grossman

They may not be filet mignon to you, but bunker and mackerel steaks are just that to the bluefish that take over the west end of Long Island Sound during the fall months.

The sun had just set and the air was still as we sat double-anchored at my very favorite spot for baiting blues: Steppingstone Light. The lights on the Throgs Neck Bridge and those reflecting across the water from City Island made the whole scene picture perfect. Suddenly, there was the almost inaudible "ping" of the line being pulled out from under the rubber band on the rod's foregrip. Adrenalin surged as the fish moved off into the darkness carrying the bait in his mouth.

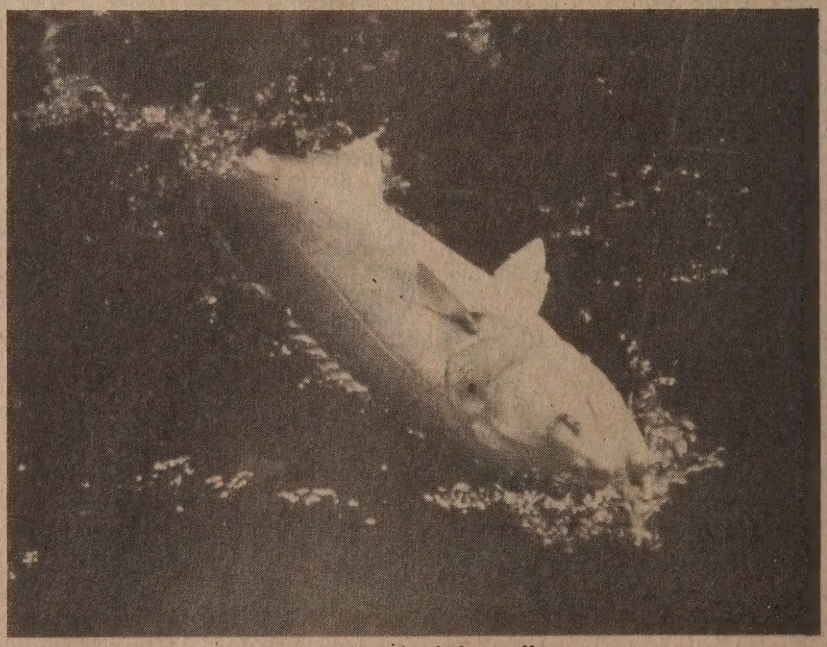
Lou picked up the rod, pointed it at the fish and began a mental count-down. The fish was really moving so he only waited for a count of five, then closed the bail on the little spinning reel and waited for the line to become taut. It did, and now the rod automatically pointed toward the actual location of the fish. Lou struck and the reel's drag began to howl as the big blue headed for the dropoff and supposed safety.

Twenty minutes later, a sore wrist, and a big grin and the sixteen pounder was flopping on the deck—not bad for ten pound test. The action continued until about ten with a pick-up about every ten or fifteen minutes; a typical night when the fish invade this area.

Light tackle bluefishing in this and other areas like it brings great satisfaction but there are certain factors necessary to enjoyment of this sport. First, you need an area where bottom snags are virtually non-existent. Secondly, the area must be a known hangout for blues, and third, you must realize that the odds will not be heavily in your favor—which means that you will not litter the dock with fish at the end of the day.

If you're still interested in trying this aspect of the sport let me give you some pointers about the tackle and techniques involved. First, the rod. This is the one area where you can save a few bucks if you wish. There is no need for a very expensive rod; any good quality piece of glass will do if it is suited for use with six to ten pound test line. The guides, however, are another matter. If the rod does not already have Fuji Speed Guides, I strongly recommend you put on a set.

Author and Lou Sabatello with a pair of blues.



Bluefish being led to gaff.

With line this light and fish that strong even the minutest nick can do you in and once you get a nick there is no way to repair it until next trip. Since the bait is generally "lob" cast, the rod's action is really not important and you can go as light as you feel like.

You must spend money on the reel; without a silk smooth drag you just cannot successfully fight a good fish on line no thicker than a hair. Buy the best you can afford.

The line, being the only link

between you and your prize is also worth special attention. Again, buy only the best. Beware of super bargains and off-brands; they will cost dearly in the end.

To the mono, I attach a ball bearing snap swivel testing about fifteen pounds. On the boat I have dozens of rigs already made up. They consist of a twenty-four inch piece of forty pound test nylon-covered braided wire with a 1/0 treble on one end and a perfection loop on the other. When I make up the rigs, I tie a perfection loop (it will not slip in this material where other knots will either slip or fail to snug up properly) in each end. I then bend the open ring of a treble into one of the loops. The other end gets attached to the snap swivel. If there is a current running, you only need to add the appropriate rubber-cored sinker onto the leader, near the snap. A two inch wide bunker or mackerel steak placed on one point of the hook completes the package.

I prefer double anchoring for this kind of fishing when in shallow water. The second anchor prevents the boat from swinging and the baits from being dragged around on the bottom, possibly picking up grass. Just fan out the baits in all directions depending on the area you are fishing and place the rods in rod holders. If there is a current or you are fishing at night, use the rubber band "outrigger" on the foregrip. You will find that you will sense when the line has been hit without actually hearing the little "ping." Remember to leave the bail open so the fish can take line without feeling any resistance.

Fighting these fish on light tackle takes concentration as they have many tricks. You must always be conscious of your drag setting and watch where the fish is running. Once you get him back within fifty feet of the boat, be prepared for the worst. They have an affinity for charging right at the boat, passing under the hull and continuing on a straight line from there. You must be ready to plunge the rod into the water, right up to the reel to keep the line from contacting the bottom of the boat. In this position, move toward either the bow or the stern until the line is out from under the hull and then resume fighting, facing the fish. The anchor line is often the target for a charging fish and will usually mean a breakoff if you are not fast enough to pass the rod under and over the rope, possibly more than once.

In any event you can be sure these fish will give you an exciting battle on this tackle. In this kind of fishing you will find that each and every big bluefish will become a distinct and separate memory, not blending in with hundreds of other fish you have caught.

If the spot you choose to fish has a sharp dropoff, which may cause a rip of some sort, anchor the boat so that some of your lines will be on each side of the dropoff (some deep, some shallow). At Steppingstone, I anchor in about six feet of water about fifty feet from the dropoff at the east end of the reef (see your charts). Some other hotspots are Cuban Ledge in Eastchester Bay (beware, this is awash at low tide); Middle Reef near Orchard Beach (beware, it is covered with very little water at high tide making it just invisible); Rodman's Neck, Execution Light (the north side); the beach at Sand's Point, the plateau leading to the dropoff by the white house at Prospect Point, the deeper areas off Bell 32a, and the racing buoys off Rye, and finally Centre Island Reef.

This last spot has given me some memorable moments. Whenever passing by, stop long enough to watch the porgy fishermen. Many times I have had the pleasure of seeing their excitement at bringing up half a porgy. This was the signal that a school of marauding blues had moved up onto the reef. Immediately start fishing for the sand porgies and steak them up. Send them right back out on another rig and hang on. Leave the bail open, the line draped over your index finger, and be ready. The strike usually comes within seconds. With the exception of this spot, your best time for fishing this way will be around dawn, dusk, or overnight. The reef can come alive at any time.

Why not give this method a try this summer, you're bound to enjoy it. "PING."

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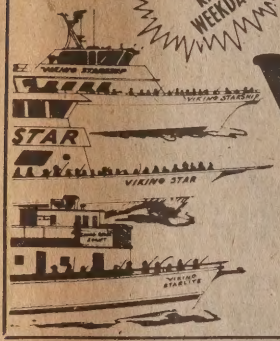

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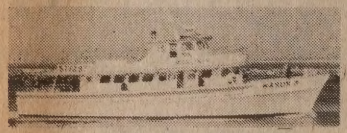

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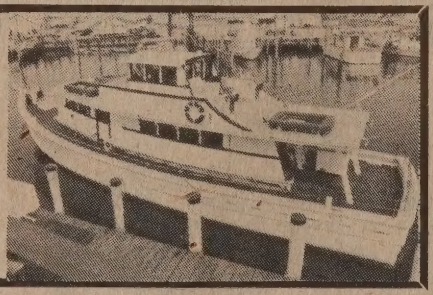

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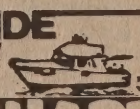

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COD

Capt Gene Kelly of the charterboat **Hustler III** called to say that he was fishing south of Block Island this weekend and diamond jigged nearly 100 blues. He also fished the area of the sub buoy and bagged up slightly over 50 additional blues.

Capt Joe McBride of the charterboat **My Mate** reports a good day offshore Saturday. Some nice football albies and bonito were boated. With Capt Don Andrews at the wheel, the boat fished inshore Sunday doing a job on blues for Jim Mullens and wife.

The **Viking Fleet** reports that this past week's codfishing at Cox's Ledge continues to be outstandingly super with loads of 6 to 15 lb. cod being taken on both ends of the ledge with a good number of hangers in the 30 to 40 lb. range. As for the **Viking Starship** Nantucket wreck trips, the last one piled up excellent results. Ninety percent of the catch was cod with a 59 pounder grabbing the pool. Eight percent of the fish was pollack and two percent hake. The pollack ran 20 to 25 lbs. Both jigs and bait caught with jigs working best with a tube tied in three feet above. Excellent quantities of fish were caught. See the sailing schedule for the rest of the Nantucket wreck trips in the **Viking Fleet** ad. The regular night bluefishing trips continue to be super with the alligators moving in now.

Capt Phil Lewis of the charterboat **Adios** reports the best school tuna action that he has seen this week was Wednesday and Thursday for Ernie Schwartz and Herman Jarch of Bellmore. Within three hours they had their quota of 20 tuna ranging from 50 to 100 lbs. Schools were all around the boat and they were being

Scotti Howe with five tuna taken chumming and jigging south of Block Island aboard Captain Phil Lewis' "Adios."

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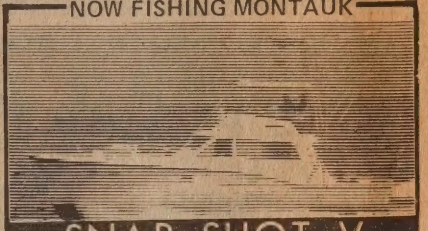

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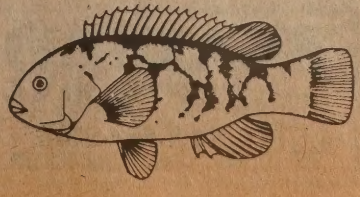

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Thirty-six fluke to 10 lbs. and 33 blues for Bob, Rich, Mike and Phil. They fished aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

hand-fed. John McGloin and Jay Caruso of NJ also had the same action boating 20 tuna, same size. They fought a giant for an hour but lost it. The inshore fishing remains good also.

West Lake Fishing Lodge reports that on the boat Knee Deep, Mary Humphrey took a 100 lb. mako. Aboard the **Barracuda** Capt Gary Kieffer had 2 makos along with 2 bluefin tuna. He also tagged 5 blue shark. This was at the Mud Hole. Blackfishing is getting better every day and the porgy fishing remains hot. Night blues at Cartwright remain excellent. On the boat Danny Boy, John Cristman had 20 big bluefish.

Charterboat **Big Blue** called to tell about lots of 50 to 100 lb. tuna South SE of Block Island in the trouth in 29 fathoms. The tuna are out there said Capt Paul taking bait. A charter this week for Mark Bellentoni for Portchester, resulted in an 85 lb. tuna taken on 40 lb. test line after a 1 hr. 45 min. dual. Bluefishing remains strong at Shagwong and at Cartwright.

Capt Buddy Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** said that to his recollection daily high hooks have gone 100 porgies or better for well over two weeks now. John Stonitsch of Huntington was high hook this week with a total of 226 porgies for one trip.

Pat O'Connor displays the 45 lb. mako he landed aboard Captain Zac's "Mako Express."

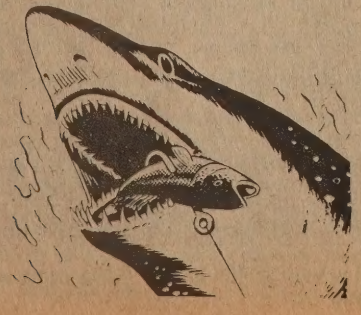
Jorge Martinez, Eric Isacsson, Augie Emanuel and Steve Carbone with 600 lbs. of blues and weaks taken at Montauk on Gene Kelly's "Hustler III."

Saturday six anglers went over the 100 porgy mark and five made it Sunday. The action is great—fill your freezer!

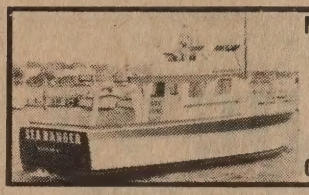
Captain Richie Rade of the **Marlin Fleet** reported red hot porgy action at the Point, with most fares averaging around 60 fish and high hook taking anywhere from 100 to 120. The fish are mixed sizes and some sea bass, porgies and flounder are sprinkled in with them. Best action is at Shagwong and down at the Point. Bluefishing continues good day and night on Cartwright. These choppers are running from 13 to 20 lbs. Fishing is equally good day and night.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** reported the best porgy action all season now taking place at the Point and Shagwong. Fish are mixed sizes and everyone is carrying full bags off the boat. Al Handberry of Brooklyn aboard the **Viking Starlight** on Friday was high hook with 188 porgies. Bluefishing at Cartwright continues very good, with most anglers exhausted by noontime. Fluke have been tapering off, but the codfishing is holding up at Coxes Ledge.

Capt Ron Grandinetti of the charterboat **Julie III** reports that Saturday's trip lead by Gene Lee caught 350 lbs. of porgies. Sunday's charter lead by Little Ernie had 460 lbs. of porgies up to 4 lbs. Fishing was done on the south side and at Great Eastern.



★CAPTREE★



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Thom at **Specks Bait and Tackle** said that porgy fishing in Peconic Bay has been very good on the west side of Cow Neck. Worms and clams seem to be the best baits. Some decent weakfish action in Noyac Bay on worms and squid strips. Live snappers take an occasional tiderunner. Fluke and snappers appear to be petering out in Shinnecock Bay, but flounder should be getting started soon. Thom added that he has green crabs available for blackfishermen. He is also selling them by the bushel for those interested. Plenty of eels on hand for bass fishermen.

The open boat **Capt. Clark II** reports blackfishing has been improving. Pool fish each day is usually 9 or 10 lbs. with many 4-6 lbers. being taken. Porgy fishing is at its peak with fish running from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. Catches have been averaging 60-70 per man. Saturday's offshore wreck trip was slow with most fares taking 6-8 sea bass apiece. The skipper believes the ocean temperatures are still too warm and as waters cool, more sea bass should be occupying their usual haunts.

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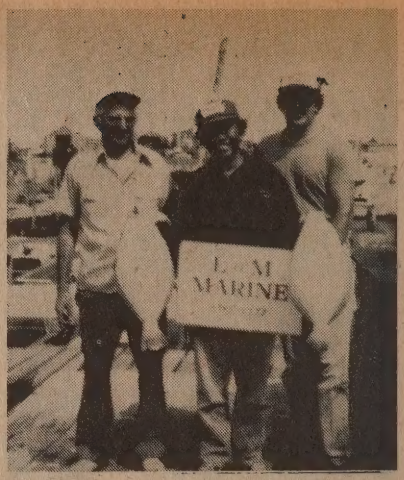

Arnie Parengkvan shows fluke of 4½ and 5¼ lbs. taken at the Elbow in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of L&M Marine.

HAMPTON BAYS

At **Corr's Mariners Cove**, Mickey told me of a super fluke catch made by Buggy of Manhattan's McSorley's Ale House. Fishing just outside the inlet early last week, 70 nice fluke were taken by the crew aboard his boat. Other than that exceptional catch, fluking has been very picky although flounder action has been picking up in the Basket area. Quite a few fish in the 1 to 1¼ lbs. range taken over the weekend here. Fair porgy fishing around Robin's Island on worms and clams. The wind kept most boats close to port over the weekend, according to Mickey.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** reported weekend flounder action over the weekend was on the slow side due to the wind. Good action during the week however, northeast of buoy 42 with some sea bass and porgies mixed in. Boatmen chumming and using worms seem to do best. Snapper fishing still good and crabbing very good in the coves and also at buoys 43 and 44. Bluefish have been hanging around the inlet, but this action too was slow over the weekend due to the wind. A few makos during the week in 115' to 120' of water, including a 467 lber. taken by Roger Royalty aboard Kevin O'Brien's Rheingold on Saturday.

Jim at **Skidmore's Fishing Station** reports that Saturday's flounder action was superb with a very good mixture of sea bass, porgies and blowfish mixed in. Nat and John Viol totaled 40 flounder, 45 sea bass plus some blows and porgies, all on blood worms, taken between buoys 42 and 43. Sunday's catches were down due to high winds. Flounders are improving on a daily basis. Catches are being made a short ride from the dock. Blueclaw crabs are a good item at buoy 44.

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GREAT SOUTH BAY
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MIXED BAG

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station tells us that the fall flounder are in. Good flounder catches were made over the weekend from buoy 17 to the bridge on worms, mussel and clam. Flatties ran to 1¼ lbs. and hit on both tides. Blueclaw crabs have improved a lot and boats are averaging 7 to 10 dozen a day also from buoy 17 to the bridge on rings and in traps. A smorgasbord of blowfish, sea bass, porgies, weakfish and other assorted bottom feeders, all on the small side, can be taken from buoy 19 to the bridge, if you fancy small fish. The only exception is the weakfish which are in the 6 to 7 lb. range and are hitting squid. Plenty of 12 to 14" snappers from buoy 19 to the bridge on any shiny lures or on spearing. Jumbo crab of the week measured 8½" from point to point this week.

Harold Tobia, Larry Oks and Nick Diamantis with seven fluke to 3½ lbs. taken at Point O'Woods on spearing and squid combos. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

SAYVILLE

Charlie at **Young's Fishing Station** reported that good weakfishing continued in the bay off of Sayville. Al Morgan, Frank Prucha and Jack Miller totaled 80 weaks Friday and Saturday fishing near the W buoy off of Sayville. They used squid strips. Bill, George Sr. and Jr. Golder of Sayville had a fine mixed bag which included 53 blackfish, 2 kingfish, 10½ lb. weakfish and a couple of snappers fishing at Ocean Beach.

WEST SAYVILLE

From **South Bay Fishing Station**, Vinnie told us there's still lots of weaks along with a few kingfish behind the clam dredges off of Sayville. Squid strips and snapper fillets working best for these fish. Pretty fair action with small sea bass and porgies at buoy 20 and a few flounder starting to show, while fluke seem to be fading out.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&R Sport Center** told of a good mixed bag on the bay wrecks and at Kismet Reef. Plenty of blackfish, along with porgies and sea bass on worms and clams. Still a good number of weakfish in the bay between Heckscher and Sayville, with some kingfish mixed in. Squid strips taking most of these fish. Crabbing in the area remains good and for freshwater fans trout fishing is starting to show some life again with several 10" to 12" specimens coming out of Bubbles Falls in recent days. Dave expects the bigger fish to show in the next couple of weeks.

BAY SHORE

Al Randazzo weighed in stripers of 24 and 34 lbs. at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** on Saturday. Linda, who checked the fish said they were taken on live eels in Fire Island Inlet. She noted that blackfishing has been good at the Kismet Reef on green crabs and fiddlers. Porgies and sea bass are mixed with the blacks and in addition are being caught near the lighthouse. The few fluke still being picked at the inlet and small blues being trolled on umbrellas in the same area. Bluefish action on the Patchogue grounds slowed this past week, although some fair catches are still being made in the area. Small weakfish in the bay behind the clam dredges on squid strips and some tiderunners on live snappers at the light and the WR buoy. Giant tuna to 800 lbs. still present in the mud hole, although strong winds and boat traffic hurt the fishing over the weekend. Good snapper fishing and crabbing in the area.

CAPTREE

The **Capt Rod** reports that this week he has taken a fair catch of fluke along

This 3 lb. 7 oz. sea bass was caught by pretty Dotty Pachefsky aboard the Captree charter boat "Capt. Leo D."

with a lot of sea bass and porgies. Rod says that Capt Richie Abrams on his boat **Capt Whittaker** had 25 flounders on Sunday so that the flounder action is picking up to the point where the Captree Fleet will probably for their bay activities be concentrating on these flatties. Please note that the **Capt Rod** is now switching over to flounders.

The **Captree Queen II** called to report that most of the week has been slow to fair due to weather conditions. Saturday and Sunday showed a marked improvement, especially Sunday night, when the **Capree Queen II & Speedy VI** were the only two boats to sail from Captree. Sunday's day boats all reported that jigging improved on the inshore Patchogue grounds. Sunday night's bluefishing turned SUPER once again. Fish ran from 3 to 16 lbs., and there were plenty of them. Catches ranged from 10 to 25 choppers a man on both bottom rigs and splitshot rigs. Some bonito and albies were mixed in also.

Capt Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt Bob Joseph** reports that Friday was very good on the bluefish at Patchogue with 16 men decking over 200 bluefish to 16 lbs. Fish averaged 5 to 10 lbs. Saturday saw a slow pick due to strong winds with 18 men taking slightly over 50 blues. Sunday bounced back as evidenced by Brooklyn angler Archie Johnson grabbing high hook honors with 17 choppers.

Captain Marty of the **Jib VII** has been picking away at the fluke. All of the action is now concentrated at the

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inlet as the fish are now schooled up and preparing to migrate offshore. Captain Joe, skipper of the **Jib VI** has been enjoying good blackfishing on bay wrecks and at the Kismet Reef on clams and fiddler crabs. Sea bass and porgies are mixed with the tautogs. Blues have been holding up on the Patchogue grounds although rough weather made it tough for fares to stick it out very long at the rails over the weekend.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** said they've been picking away at the blues on the Patchogue grounds, although Wednesday there was some good action off of Gilgo. The boat has been averaging 100 to 200 fish per day and it appears that the unusually warm weather has put the fish off their feed. Speedy expects that a cold snap is needed for the fishing to really break open again. Albacore and bonito are still mixed with the blues on some days.

BABYLON

Dennis at **Hi Hook Fishing Station** reported a real good mixed bag for anglers in the area. Kingfish, blacks to 4 lbs., sea bass, snappers, crabs and a few fluke all being taken on an assortment of baits such as worms, clams, and squid strips. Small weakfish still up in the bay on squid, with some kings mixed with them. Most of the blackfish and sea bass action is concentrated around the Kismet Reef and down by the lighthouse.

Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** said that only two boats were able to make the Canyon run over the weekend. Both the Blue Water and the Misty Helm returned with good catches of bigeyes, yellowfins and longfin albacore in the 100 lb. class. Giant tuna action at the Mud Hole continued but slowed significantly from last week's wild action. Small weaks off of Heckscher on squid strips, while some real tiderunners are being taken on live snappers in the lighthouse area. Sea bass, kingfish and porgies in good supply at Ocean Beach and plenty of blackfish on the reef at Kismet on crabs and clams.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
MIXED BAG

SEAFORD

John at **Pop's Fishing Station** spoke of a real mixed bag in the Seaford area. Fluke, sea bass, porgies, flounder, kingfish, blowfish and snappers are all combining to provide lots of action between the 1st and 3rd

Wantagh bridges and also in Massapequa Cove. Squid seems to be the best all around bait according to John.

Lon at **Wanser's Bait and Tackle** said that anglers using worms and clams and clam chum have been returning with some fine mixed bags of porgies, sea bass, blackfish, kingfish, flounder, eels and blowfish. Still some fluke at the inlet and weakfish at the bridges after dark on worms and live snappers. One of Lon's customers on Friday put away six school bass using wire line and umbrella rigs in the inlet. Traps now taking good numbers of crabs in the deeper channels.

BELLMORE

The Singing Dog at **Merrick Tackle** sings of flounders, sea bass, porgies and blowfish, all on the small side, with good catches being made at Swift Creek and around the Meadowbrook Bridge. Please be sure to return the infant blowfish. Some school tuna on red and white feathers have been trolled this week at the HA. Customers that travelled out to Montauk and fished for cod at Cox's Ledge aboard the **Viking Starship** this past week, reported that they caught loads of 6 to 10 lb. cod on the **Starship** with occasional 30 to 40 pounders being taken as well. Karen and Matt of the shop fished aboard the **Starstream II** out of Freeport on Tuesday's day trip. Amongst their catch of bluefish and bonito, Karen bagged a 13 lb. albie on a smelt.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** tells of catches of small sea bass at the Meadowbrook Bridge and in the channel going from the golf course to High flats drain bridge. This is on worms, clam and squid. Rental skiffs are still getting fluke to the tune of 3 to 8 per boat. These fish are fat and good catches have been made on the hook at Merrick Point and the south end of Rowboat Alley. Lots of midget fluke also. Please return these infants to the water so they can grow up. Your reporter fished the east side of the 3rd Wantagh on Sunday morning

This 53 lb. white marlin was taken north of the Texas Tower by Mark Yevoli aboard the Patricia. Photo courtesy of Nick's Fishing Station in Merrick.

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and had a good catch of sea bass from ¾ to 1 lb. along wth 4 keeper porgies, 3 keeper blowfish one of which was a monster, and 8 zillion bergalls. John DeMino recently had a 36 lb. pollack fishing around the Texas Tower Ruins plus some 20 lb. class cod.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

FREEPORT

Lou of **Lou's Fishing Station** said that bluefish were taken at Cholera and at the Three Sisters Wreck over the weekend, but wind hurt most offshore fishing in the area. Giant tuna still at the Mud Hole, but few hook-ups in recent days. Some nice blackfish now being taken on offshore wrecks and inside at the bridges. A few fluke still around near the inlet on squid and sand eels. Flounder fishing fair to good and a few weaks being picked up near the bridges on worm bait meant for flounder.

Charterboat **Ivory Queen** called to report that Wednesday's trip for Tom Laurio, Frank Britano and Butch Jeajer baited 25 blues at Cholera in the SE wing, fish up to 10 lbs. Sunday's charter for Arthur Engelbercht of Forest Hills, accounted for 32 blues also at Cholera. This was also on bait and chum. High hook was "No Bluefish" Bob with 6 blues. Arthur had the pool fish, a 14 lb. blue.

Capt Dan Pollera of the charterboat **Nan Sea** called to inform us that Thursday he had a 525 bluefin tuna himself. Dan fought the fish for 50 min. at the Mud Hole aboard Tom Crilly's boat Striper. The tuna took a butterfish. Dan said that Tom was on the wheel and made it possible for him to take this big fish. Bob Poggi was the gaff man. The **Shalidon** brought the fish back to the dock as the boat Dan was on had no gin pole. Please be advised that $10,000 fines are invovled for angler, boat captain and any purchaser of a giant tuna over 300 lbs. who does not have the required license for these giants.

The **Starstream II** reports that this past week the bluefishing has been fair at Cholera and the area of the Three Sisters. A few albacore, bonito and skippies are also being taken. This has been basically bait and chum fishing. Night trips working the same general areas, have been averaging approximately 100 fish a night for light crowds. Fall bluefishing (big fish) should be coming up very shortly.

The **Capt Al** has been mixing bluefish catches with the more exotic bonito and albacore, fishing Cholera

and the area from the Three Sisters to the NB. Wednesday was a slaughter on bonito. Monday and Friday's trip were good. On Saturday customers jigged bluefish at the Coast Guard Station. Later on they anchored at the NB and chummed and jigged blues, albies and bonito. On Sunday the blues were a little cranky but still they hit. The shark fishermen aboard had a good afternoon with solid catches of bonito. Friday and Saturday night's trips says the skipper, were very good, working from Cholera to the NB for 5 to 6 lb. fish.

Capt Joe "Tuna" Long of the charterboat **Nite Owl** called to tell us that a weekday trip for Vance Scazzaro of Brooklyn along with pals Ralph and Jerry, loaded up with 15 albies from 18 to 20 lbs, 3 bluefin tuna in the 20 lb. range, and 6 skipjack and 2 dolphin, one of which was dropped at the gaff. This was at the HA. Joe says trolling is great now and there is action all day long and that not many people are trolling, for some reason. Last Sunday's trip for Bob Genova of Seacliff and party, loaded up on fish including albacore and bonito.

Contradulations to North Merrick angler Benjamin Strum who recently bagged himself an 8¾ lb. fluke while fishing in local Freeport waters.

The **Capt Gary** reports a Saturday bluefish charter for NY Telephone Co., Brooklyn, had picky pickings. Bob Kelly was high hook and pool winner. Sunday's charter for Herder Lodge 698 enjoyed a good flounder day with double headers mixed in with sea bass and porgies. High hook was Ed Ehrich with 37 flounders. Pool winner was Conrad Siers with a 3¾ lb. fluke. The boat will be running open Sept. 28th at 8 a.m. for flounders, and the skipper says he has plenty of open charter dates.

Capt Mike Dannon of the **Capt Lou Fleet** tells of very good fishing all week. On Monday Paul Wetterau of Floral Park boated 48 flounders to 2 lbs. On Thursday Ray Thompson of Wantagh managed 60 flounders along with a mess or porgies and sea bass. Friday saw excellent fishing again with all customers buckets topped off. The boat is fishing the local creeks and channels. Saturday's fishing was very good said Mike and on Sunday Flushing angler Rich Matouseh boated 51 flatties. John Taska had 47 flounder including a 2 lb. pool fish. Fish are mixed sizes but in a few weeks everything should be hefty. There is plenty of action. A few large blacks are always mixed in. Mike's half-day boat the **Capt Lou IV** is also averaging high hooks in the 20 and 30s every trip.

Capt Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** tells us that during the week, both boats fished Cholera for bluefish in the 3 to 6 lb. range. Five to 7 lb. bonito along with 9 to 11 lb. albacore were mixed in. The bonito and albies can be taken with light tackle if there is a light crowd onboard. Fishing has been with bait and chum rather then with jigs. On the weekend the **BF II & III** worked SW of Jone's and had blues up to 18 lbs. on butterfish. Naturally blues and albies were mixed in. Capts. Charlie Adams, Tony DeLernia and Sy all shared the honors. The boats will be bluefishing through October at least and bookings are now being taken for cod trips.

Capt Pat of the charterboat **Lady J II** reports that Saturday's charter for Clyde Trotter and group of Binghamton baited 35 blues and a few bonito up to 10 lbs. Sunday's trip for Ben De Vita of Staten Island and group hoisted 70 blues with some bonito mixed in, in the 6 lb. class. This was all on bait and chum at Cholera. Pat asked us to let you know that the last trip aboard the **Lady J II** has been sailed. He has a new boat presently under construction which will take charters up to 70 men and is expected to be at the **Freeport Boatmen's Association's Dock** by March 15, 1981.

POINT LOOKOUT

Tom at **Scotty's Fishing Station** called the flounder fishing in Swift Creek and Middle Bay excellent. Blowfish, sea bass and porgies are mixed with the flatties. All are being taken on worm bait. A couple of big blues to 15 lbs. roaming the inlet. Fluke have been spotty with Saturday's results okay and poor fishing on Sunday. Strong southwest winds kept most boats from getting offshore over the weekend.

Capt Dennis of the charterboat **Marie III** called to say that Monday night's charter for the 25th Precinct, Manhatten, had good to excellent bluefishing at Cholera, fish to 15 lbs. High hook was 22 choppers. Wednesday's charter for Rodney Rodes saw a good steady pick all day for fish up to 15 lbs. at Cholera. The unique catch of the day was a 75 lb. mako taken on a bluefish hook and 4" steel leader. A sharp crew and a likewise sharp flying gaff, enabled the mako to be brought aboard. The jaw is being mounted and Rodney Rodes did the catching. Thursday night's charter for a group from Ma Bell, NYC, had a 2½ hr. slaughter of blues at Cholera which turned into a steady pick. The 15 lb. pool fish was caught by Oren Alerecht. High hook was Larry Lee, tied with Ed Coych Jr. with 21 blues apiece. The boat tooted the whistle for home by 12:30 a.m. Friday night's trip for Carney's Tavern, Manhattan, got off to a very slow start, but there was slaughter fishing from 2:30 a.m. to 4:20 a.m. The boat hit the dock at 5:45 a.m. Pool winner was Tom Lehmann with a 5 lb. blue. Tom was also high hook with 15 fish. Sunday's trip for the Rockville Centre—Oceanside Post Office, was a slow pick in the morning which grew into activity at 3:00 a.m. Pool winner was Anthony Holmes with a 13 pounder. Joe Dwyer was high hook with 15 blues. A 25 lb. brown shark was brought to the boat and released. They also dropped an estimated 60 lb. blue shark. Smelts

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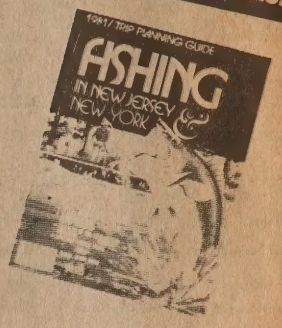

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worked better than butters Sunday and some bonito and albacore were taken all week. Dennis says he has a couple of Saturday dates open for October.

LONG BEACH

Bernie Haag calling for **Long Beach Sports Marina** told us that Charles Larymond, Rich Fritz and Moses Simons returned with 150 blackfish which they took near the Gong buoy at Debs Inlet. The Atlantic Beach Bridge and local jetties have been surrendering very good blackfish scores for those using fiddler crabs. Fishing near the Cedar Hurst Yacht Club over the weekend, Billy Schultz took 4 fluke to 3 lbs. and rounded off the catch with 13 flounder up to 1½ lbs. Roger Porcella used a live bunker to take a 13 lb. bluefish inside the channel. Roger now leads the bluefish division of the station contest. Jim Gentelesco holds down second place with an 11 lb. chopper, while Art Ferdschneider is in 3rd with a 10½ lber. The flounder division is led by Phil Robinson with a 1 lb. flattie.

ISLAND PARK

Charlie at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** knew that the Jones Beach piers provided plenty of action with small flounder and nice size flounder on Sunday. Blackfishing is now in full swing at the bridges and wrecks and Charlie is well stocked with both fiddlers and green crabs for the fall fishing. Still a few fluke remaining at the inlet for boatmen.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Al of **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** said that while fluke have petered out, blackfishing has been super at the Atlantic Beach Bridge on fiddler crabs. Some flounder being taken on worms near can #1 and the bridges. One angler stopped by the station to weigh a 13 lb. blue which he caught in the channel. He left in such a hurry that Al could not get any details.

Capt Ronnie Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** reports that the giant tuna have remained good all week at the Mud Hole but that they have shrunk down in size from 300 to 500 lb. fish, from the tackle busting elephants of last week. Bluefishing is still super with bonito, albacore and weakfish mixed in, hitting diamond jigs in Ambrose Channel. The weaks are 6 to 12 lb. specimens. Ron also advised that lots of 50 to 150 lb. tuna have been caught all this past week out at Montauk.

JAMAICA BAY

Artie at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** said that both porgies and snappers continue to entertain anglers at the north and south channel bridges and the Marine Parkway Bridge. Both blackfish and flounder getting started in the area while fluke seem to be tapering off. Worms accounting for the porgies and flounder while clams and fiddler crabs have been taking the blackfish.

Canarsie Sports & Tackle says that off the Canarsie Pier 7 to 8" snappers are being caught along with some sand porgies and an occasional bluefish. Fluke and porgies are being caught around the Marine Parkway Bridge on clam and worm bait. Sharpies are also bagging decent size weakfish drifting sand worms along the bottom and also popping shrimp jigs along the bottom tipped with sand worm.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The open boat **Pilot** called to report excellent porgy fishing down off of the Rockaways. The skipper said that this action is at its peak and also that sea bass and blackfish are mixed with the porgies.

The **Elsie K III** reported good fluke fishing this weekend. On Sunday, the boat fished local channels for fish averaging 2 lbs. High hook took 10 fish and a pool fish of 7 lbs. 5 oz. was taken on sand eels. The boat also ran into some bluefish and bonito action over the weekend. The Captain said that good fluke fishing should last at least a couple more weeks.

STATEN ISLAND

From **Santo's Sport Shop**, Lenny said that boatmen have been trolling single tubes and Lupo baby bunker spoons near buoy 14 in the Princess Bay channel and taking weaks and blues in the 8-12 lb. class. Bunker whole and chunk bunker also taking these fish. Inside of Great Kills Harbor and at the mouth of the harbor, big weakfish are being taken on sand worms or on snagged bunker in the early morning hours. Snappers and porgies continue to provide lively action and blackfish are now around, but don't seem to be getting much attention as of yet.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt John Raines of the charterboat **Blue Albatross** called to say that Saturday's trip saw excellent porgy fishing for a total of over 800 porgies taken for the trip. Andrea Frazier coped the pool with a huge humpback porgy. Fishing was done off Gardiners and Plum Islands.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports very good flounder fishing at Orient Point.

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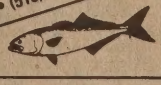

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Good blackfishing at Gull Island, Plum Island, at the Orient Point light and in the Sound. This is on fiddlers and green crabs. Good porgy catches at Gardiner's Island and Fisher's Island. Blackfishing appears to be picking up well.

The **Peconic Star** reports very good porgy fishing this week. Nathan Bell bagged 114 porgies. Marty Garris had 67 fish along with a 2¾ lb. pool winner. Curtis McSwain totaled 70 porgies. Another fare bagged up with 83 porgies. These four buddies were from Crown Hgts., Brooklyn.

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** tells us that he is catching lots of porgies near Gardiner's Island and Fisher's Island and that the action is super. Customers are bagging up.

The Greenport charterboats have been having good shots of bluefish in the Pigoen Rip and Plum Gut areas.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** tells us that the bay is full of mixed size porgies and they are really all over the place. South Ferry on the drift has been producing the biggest porgies. Also good has been buoy 16, 17 and 18. Fish are hitting clam and worm bait on both tides. Except for South Ferry it is an anchor up and chum game. Blackfish are being caught off Greenlawn. A 7¾ lb. black was weighed in Sunday and also a 7 pounder. That has been on fiddler and green crab. Flounders being caught off Long Beach at Orient State Park from ¾ to 1 lb. On the sound side, flounders are in at Petty's Bight generally running from 1 to 2 lbs. on worm and clam on both tides. Flounders also at the trap east of the station and at the cable crossing. Porgies at Petty's Bight and in front of the station in good numbers and sizes. Blacks at the Lighthouse and at the rocks west of the station just before Petty's Bight. Bluefish south of Plum Island through to the Ruins on diamond jigs, fish in the 6 to 7 lb. class. Weakfish are a tricky proposition in the bay, with squid on a hi/lo rig your best bet at Shelter Island's Crescent Beach.

NEW SUFFOLK

Sal at **Capt Marty's Fishing Station** says there are plenty of porgies being caught all this past week and weekend with best action at South Race between Nassau Point and the Lighthouse. These are fish up to 1½ lbs. along with some bigger humpbacks. Fish are hitting clam and worm on both tides. There have also been some weakfish up to 6 lbs. caught on Sunday on squid and sandworm. On Saturday one sharpie had 20 weakfish in one of the station's rental boats. Porgy catches are averaging 60 to 75 fish per man. Customers are also picking up blowfish in the keeper size in fair numbers. Buoy 1 on the west side of Nassau Point has been a good weakfish spot. We urge all anglers to be sure to return the small baby blowfish so that we can have a real season on them next year.

SAG HARBOR

Capt Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** reports that the porgy fishing remains excellent. Saturday was the slowest day of the week due to strong SW winds. All the other days including the weekend were excellent with all fares catching atleast in the 40s. Thursday was the best day of the week with Stanley of Brooklyn being high hook with 197 porgies. His partner, Mr. Brown of Brooklyn, loaded up with 186 porgies. Most fares have been catching from 40 to 100 plus fish of mixed sizes. The larger fish are around now. Sea bass from 1 to 1½ lbs. are mixed in.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** says that Bill Fales and son Bill Jr. of Bellerose along with Frank Guadiosi of Glen Head, totaled 12 weakfish running up to 10 lbs. 8 oz. Sunday afternoon, fishing between the nets at Jessups and buoy 16 using squid and live snappers fished on the bottom. They also had three good flounders. It is early for flounders now but the flatties will increase in numbers as the water cools.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said that blackfishing is showing signs of life. The biggest fish he saw this week was a 9½ lb. tautog which came from the beach at Wildwood State Park. Young Marco Respinto swam live porgies in front of the Shoreham jetties over the weekend and clicked with a 13 lb. bluefish and a 9 lb. weak. Jiggers have been taking weaks up to 9 lbs. in the same area. Nice porgies and blackfish on worms, clams, and crabs on the shoals. Big snappers all along area beaches.

SELDEN

Ken at **Angler's Den** tells of big fish in his locality. A lot of blues in the 6 to 10 lb. range have been taken this week just one mile out of Mt. Sinai Harbor on the weekend in particular on jigs and on umbrellas. A few 5 to 7 lb. weaks have been mixed in. The Flax Pond area and area off Crane's Neck in 60' of water have produced

jigged fish during the week in goodly numbers and sizes. Plenty of porgies around as evidenced by a catch by Dennis Dewkofsky and his son with 30 porgies taken off White Beach casting, fish going from 1 to 2 lbs. Lots of blues in Mt. Sinai Harbor, pushed in by this past week's winds. Good blackfishing off the Shoreham jetties. One customer had 15 blacks from 2 to 6 lbs. on green crab. On Sunday, George, Cliff and some pals fishing aboard their boat Unexpected, SW of Moriches Inlet in 140' of water, had 2 dolphin on Green Machines (8 lb. variety) and also dropped a large tuna.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells us that lots of porgies from 1 to 1½ lbs. have been caught off Miller Place. Blues are being jigged off Cedar Beach in 30 to 40 feet of water.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station tells of solid porgy catches at Old Field Point both in and outside the harbor, just about everywhere. Fish are thick and are hitting clam and worms on both tides. Fish are running from ½ to 1 lb. Blues from 2 to 4 lbs. with a few 6 lb. class fish thrown in are being jigged and trolled at Mt. Misery Point, buoy 11. Blacks are starting at Old Field Point and most any rocky areas on fiddlers and green crab. Lots of 3 and 4 pounders are being taken. As the water temp falls, blackfishing should become stronger. All the action right now is mainly focused on the hot porgy fishing.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **O.K. Bait & Tackle** tells of very good porgy fishing with most rental skiffs getting a couple of buckets full per trip. Crane Neck has been the hot spot on clam and worm for mixed fish up to 2 plus lbs. on both tides. Good bluefishing right in front of the station. In the morning and late afternoon, blues are being plugged or trolled on monofilament line. Good catches are being made trolling Rebels. Tri-Fin spoon jigs are also accounting for fish in the 2 to 6 lb. range. A few larger blues to 10 lbs. are being umbrellaed at the bar in deeper water NE of the loading platform.

NORTHPORT

Big porgies in solid at buoy 13, according to Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods**. Plenty of small porgies along the Sound Beaches. Blues and weaks being taken on jigs at the Obstruction buoy, but the best bluefishng is being enjoyed by boatmen who run across to the Norwalk Islands. Some fluke still at Eatons and blackfish beginning to get a foothold in the area. Snappers still in good supply.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie Ferraro told us from **Ronnie's Bait and Tackle** that blues and weaks continue to be jigged at the Obstruction buoy. A few school bass

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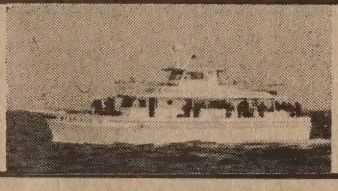

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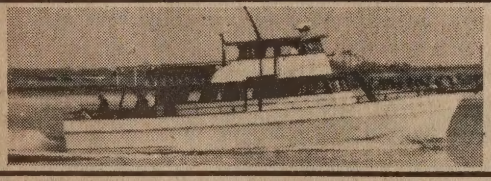

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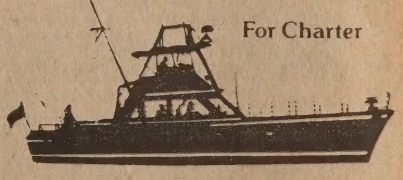

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and big blues being wirelined on bucktails inside of buoy 13. Outstanding porgy fishing around buoy 13 for those using worms and clams and clam chum. Some small bass being worm trolled at Marshall Field and Whitewood Point. Still some fluke off of Eatons Neck. Frank , Jose, and Sandy Calvert along with Diana Wilt took eight fluke up to 4 lbs. on sand eel and fluke belly combos. A few big blues starting to show inside the harbors.

George at **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** said boatmen continue to diamond jig blues in the 2-5 lbs. class at the Obstruction buoy and buoy 13. Bigger choppers out at 11B. Blackfish starting to make an appearance but the best bottom action has been with the porgies which are now super abundant from buoy 13 to buoy 11B. Some big blues have showed in Northport Bay, Cold Spring Harbor and Huntington Bay, but the main run has yet to develop.

The **Ever Ready** reports Saturday morning's trip saw Albert Mezzo of Mt. Vernon and Zeke Zebroski of Smithtown take 20 bluefish apiece. Sunday's 6:00 p.m. trip saw Dr. Paul Spada of Port Washington take the first blue. Tom Shelford of Huntington bag a 6 lb. pool blue. Sunday's 5:00 p.m. trip carried Delores Schmidt of Woodbury, who took the pool with a 6½ lb. weak. All the bluefish runs have gotten fish. The 1:00 p.m. bottom run Sunday saw high hook of 56 porgies. East Northport angler Joe Sincotta took the pool with a 4½ lb. fluke. The **Ever Ready** is now sailing weekends only. See ad for details.

GLEN COVE

The **Lady Lil II** called to say that he is still bluefishing. Most of the blues are between 10 and 20 lbs., all on diamond jigs. Saturday saw an 18 lb. gorrilla take the $75 pool for Joel Lizza of Glen Head. Strong winds kept the fishing down on Saturday. The boat will be switching to blackfish soon. Right now all the bluefishing is being done between Norwalk and Stanford.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

MIXED BAG

CITY ISLAND

Jack of **Jack's Bait and Tackle** reported improved blackfishing at the old CBS tower and off of Fort Slocum. Porgy action has been fair, with some of the best scores also being made at the CBS tower. Some real big

bluefish moving around the area between Execution Light, Stepingstone Light and the Throgs Neck Bridge. Wirelining bucktails or tubes or cut bait have been taking the fish. Snappers are big and plentiful throughout the area.

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that flounder have improved, while porgy fishing has been good. An occasional sea bass or blackfish is mixed with the porgies which are being taken on worms or clams. The entire area from Hempstead Harbor to Bayville has been productive. Best bet for big snappers according to Dave has been Desoris Pond.

SURF REPORT

with Fred Golofaro

It seems as if last week's taste of fall weather at long last kindled some bass action along south shore beaches. Reports of bass taken in the surf covered a long stretch of shore line reaching from Shinnecock to Atlantic Beach. It's a good bet that this mild surge of activity was the result of Monday's mild northeaster moving some of the resident stripers out of their bay haunts.

Montauk showed some signs of life with weaks and a few school bass providing some lively action for casters up front early Monday morning.

With the exception of City Island and its continuing run of schoolies, and a few flurries of bluefish action near Shoreham, the north shore remained quiet.

For the coming week, the weekend's August weather should have been replaced by a cold front on Tuesday. Some extended cool weather is need to drop the high water temperatures which are currently plaguing casters the length of the Island.

If any casters have encountered difficulties in parking after dark at Cedar Beach Overlook due to locked gates, I was assured by Babylon Town Parks and Recreation Supervisor Herb Hemindinger on Thursday that the gates will be kept open for fishermen through the fall months.

Now let's take a look at how things shaped up this past week on the beachfront.

South Shore

From his Staten Island Sport Shop, Lenny told me that the bar at the entrance to Great Kills Harbor continues to produce blues and weaks from 8-12 lbs. for surfmen using bunker chunks. Lenny emphasized that this is strictly early morning

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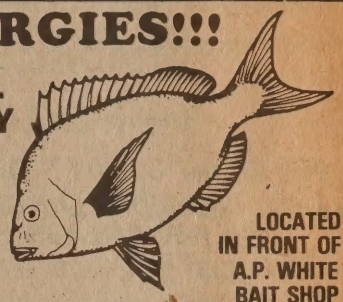
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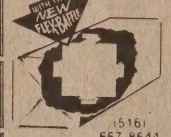

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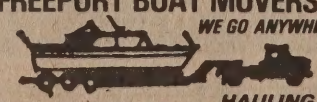

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fishing and lasts for only an hour or two each day. The only bass activity has been with a few small schoolies, most of which are shorts, at Penny Beach and Cliff Street.

In the Jamaica Bay area, Artie reported from **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** that Joe Roman and Ray Figueroa have been steadily putting a dent in the local population of blues and weaks. Using bunker chunks in the early morning hours from the South Channel Bridge the pair put away 4 blues to 15 lbs. and one weakfish last Tuesday. On Wednesday, they took 5 blues from 10 to 11 lbs., while on Thursday their morning's work resulted in 4 weaks to 9¾ lbs. and 2 13½ lb. bluefish. This Monday, the duo rounded out their scoring with a 13¼ lb. blue and a 10¾ lb. weak.

Hard fishing Bernie Haag called to tell me that casters have been picking away at school bass up to 12 lbs. near the west end of Long Beach. Popping plugs fished in conjunction with a teaser or a dropper have been the ticket. Most fish are being caught on the teaser. Bernie reported mullet in the wash last week and he knew of a 30 lb. bass taken on an eel from one of the Atlantic Beach rock piles.

Several good stripers were weighed in from the Democrat surf and others were caught but not reported. Ralph at **Augie's Bait and Tackle** in Babylon weighed in a 20 lb. striper for Ed Walsh on Saturday morning. Ed took his fish at Democrat. Ralph was told of several other fish in the 20-40 lb. range taken by casters although he did not see them. Over at **Smokey's Tackle Shop** in Bay Shore, Charlie Baculik weighed in bass of 20 and 41 lbs. which he also took on sand worms. These fish were also weighed in Saturday AM.

Further east along the Moriches shore, Bill of **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** relayed word that one nameless surf fisherman took 4 bass from 12 to 20 lbs. during the week. While Bill could only surmise where the fish came from, he knows the angler to be a regular on the east side of the inlet.

Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle**, reported some bass from the teens to mid-30s taken during the middle of the week near the inlet. Bucktails fished on an outgoing tide proved to be the ticket for one caster who scored with 3 fish. As for bluefish, an occasional fish here and there scattered along the beach according to Thom.

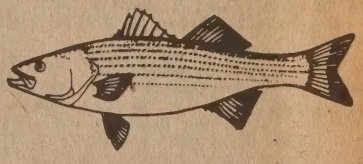
A few weaks, small blues and some school bass have been providing small bits of action for casters fishing the Point. Monday morning's action under the lgiht was exceptional by weekend standards. With just a couple of guys fishing, about 25 weaks and school bass were taken after daybreak. One surfman who found the fishing at Montauk satisfactory over the weekend was Charlie Capone. Charlie put away a 15 lb. striper at Shagwong on Friday night and then topped that fish with a 27 lber. at North Bar on Saturday night. Everything has been quiet along south side beaches, according to John of Johnny's Tackle Shop who passed along the Montauk info.

North Shore

Good fishing for schoolies averaging 3-4 lbs. continues in Turtle Cove and at Orchard Beach, according to Jack of **Jack's Tackle Shop** on City Island. Some shorts are mixed with the fish as well as some to 7 and 8 lbs. Rebels, small bucktails and worms remain the best bet.

In the Huntington area, George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** reported that one of the regulars used Tri-Fin eel worms to take a few short stripers at Caumset. George hopes that the next cold front will inspire some decent surf action.

Out at Rocky Point, Stan told me from his **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** that the Sound shore from the Brookhaven line to Shoreham has been witnessing early morning and evening flurries of bluefish ranging from 2-8 lbs. Fish are being taken on plugs and tins such as the Tri-Fin spoon jig, Hopkins and Kastmasters.



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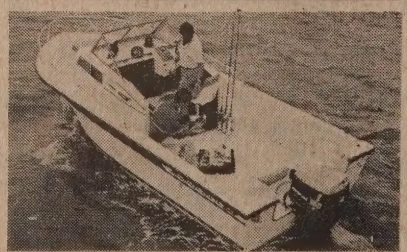

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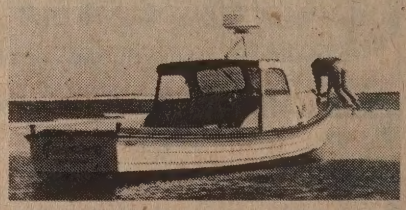

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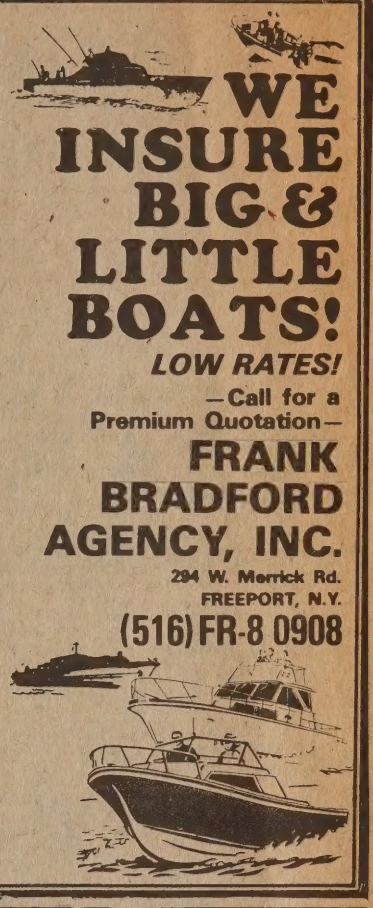
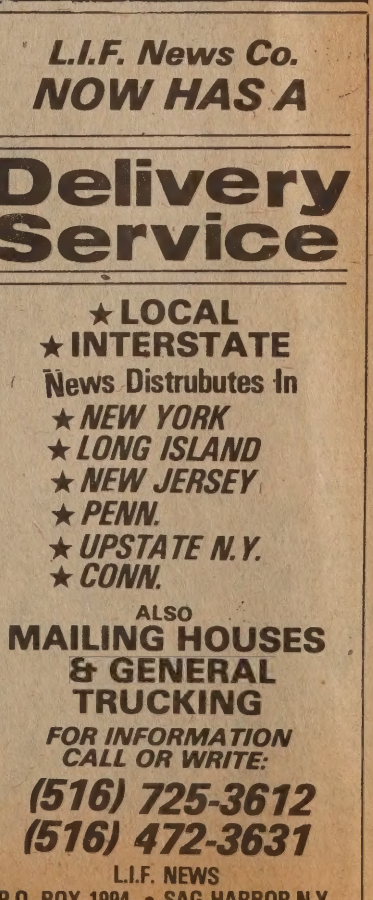
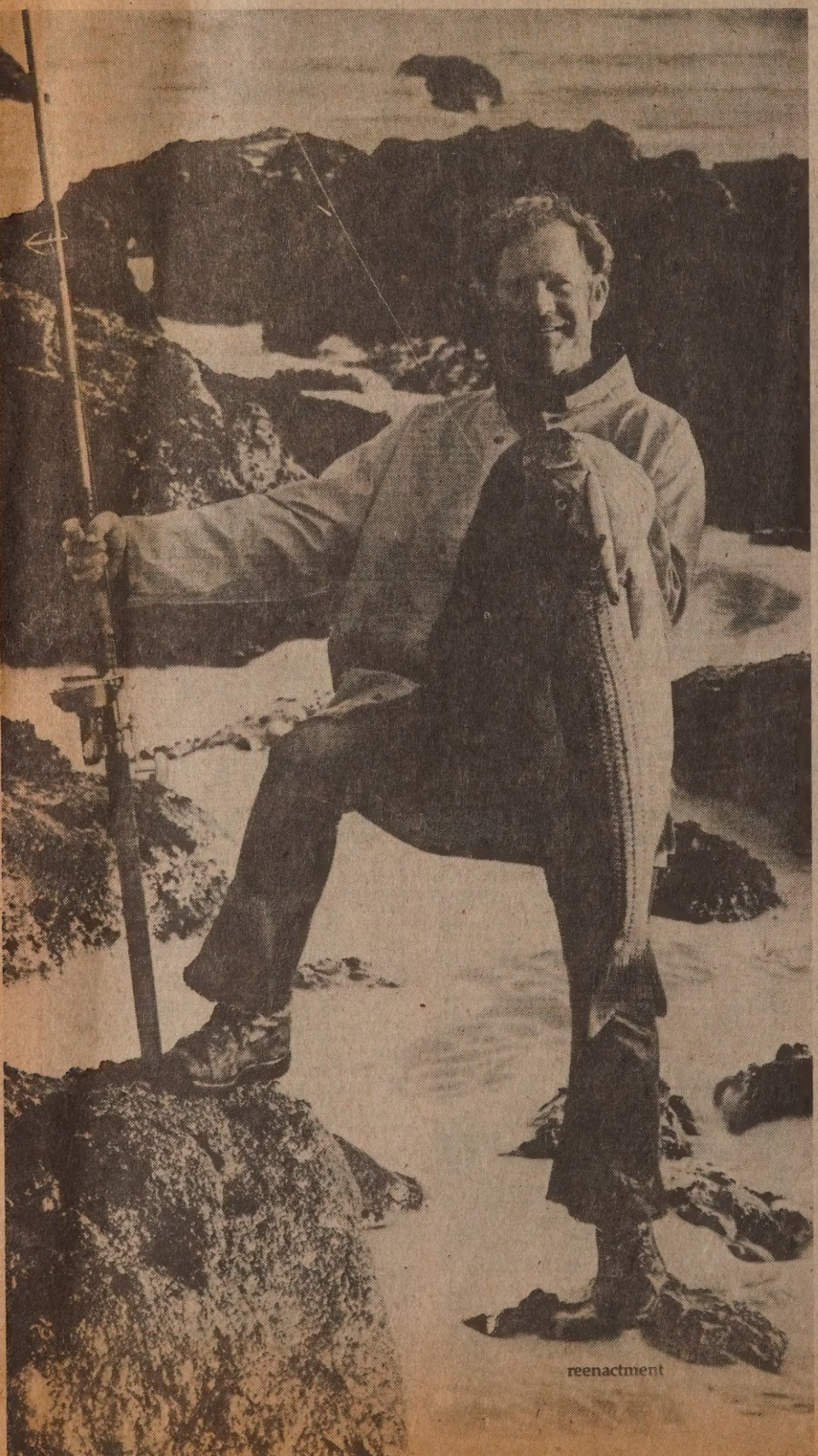




"Ten minutes in these rocks, but tough Stren® held him."



reenactment

Jetty fisherman Harry Bode found out just how tough DuPont Stren® fishing line is.

"My plug was one foot from the rocks when a striper came out of the water and exploded on it," says Harry.

"I fought him in the rocks and on the rocks for ten minutes. I thought for sure he was going to wipe me out. I still landed him. There was nothing wrong with my line—25 pound-test Stren. That fish went a little over 30 pounds. It's hard to believe, but that stuff holds up."

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YOU NEED TOUGH STREN.

DUPONT

REG. U.S. PAT. & TM. OFF.